

# Agriculture Team

Vision and Business lines

## Overall vision

Land health\* and natural resources are conserved and restored by mainstreaming Nature-based Solutions and sustainable agriculture at the field, farm, and landscape scales, therefore contributing to maintaining critical ecosystems and improving the resilience and livelihood of billions of human beings. This will be achieved through enhanced dialogue, especially between the agriculture\*\* and conservation sectors, and by strengthening value chain actors' capacities (in particular farmers organisations and vulnerable groups) to build sustainable, resilient, and fair food systems.

(\*): "the capacity of land, relative to its potential, to sustain delivery of ecosystems services" (Shepherd et al., 2015').

(\*\*): Agriculture is understood as covering primarily crops and livestock, and indirectly forestry, water and aquaculture through landscape governance.

## Business lines

### Knowledge, metrics and frameworks for the transition to more sustainable agriculture

**Vision:** IUCN becomes a relevant and visible knowledge center for donors, Governments and civil society organizations for the transition to more sustainable agriculture and food systems.

**Narrative:** based on learning from on-the-ground activities combined with traditional knowledge and modern science, scientific and technical publications are published, and tools are developed and tested, to be made available for IUCN staff, Members and partners (e.g. NGOs, forest and farm producers' organizations, companies), in collaboration with IUCN global programs, the IUCN Academy, IUCN Commissions and pilot regions.

#### Type of activities:

- Knowledge products (MOOC, publication series, issues briefs, case studies, factsheets, newsletters...) for IUCN teams and partners, and to feed IUCN communication to a wider audience.
- Develop tools and metrics relevant in agriculture: NBS agri tool, land health monitoring framework... or adapt existing tools: Green list, World heritage, Red list, NRGF, PiN, gender guidelines etc.
- Monitor and learn from on the ground activities.

**Priority thematic areas:** NBS in agriculture / Soil biodiversity / land health and ecosystem services / water and climate change / strengthen the control of marginalized groups (women, youth, IPLCs...) over landscapes and value chains.

## Influence policies to promote sustainable agricultural production systems

**Vision:** National, regional and international policies provide an enabling environment for landscape and farm producers, especially women and youth, and national companies to transition or strengthen their sustainable agricultural practices and landscape restoration interventions.

**Narrative:** Shape a policy influencing strategy at international level (focusing on e.g., UNFCCC, CBD COP and international trade bodies), regional level (e.g., economic/trade unions) and national level (across sectors) to guide institutional and investments change, building on IUCN resolutions, knowledge products and networks.

### Type of activities:

- Build dialogue between agriculture and conservation communities through Common ground dialogues.
- Develop IUCN standpoint, through position papers, policy briefs, and other policy guidance.
- Develop partnerships and build synergies with IUCN members and Commissions (roadmap/charter) - including in the implementation of IUCN motions.

**Thematic areas:** post2020 GBF implementation, public subsidies, trade, pesticides and fertilizers use, pollinators, NBS and agroecology...

## Farmers, productive landscapes and value/supply chains

**Vision:** Community groups, families, smallholders and indigenous peoples utilize and manage landscapes sustainably, have the right to make decisions over land and access to well governed value-chains, markets, knowledge and investments. Agribusinesses transition to agroecological practices and develop landscape interventions along their value/supply chains.

**Narrative:** strengthen IUCN's project portfolio to ensure that landscapes are managed and restored through strengthened institutions, equitable supply/value chains and policy coherence, and support transition towards agroecological practices.

### Type of activities:

- Implement projects to strengthen producers' organizations and local institutions capacities.
- Collaborate with companies and other value chain actors to transition to agroecological and regenerative practices, restore landscapes and connect to high value markets.
- Develop communication and awareness campaigns.

**Thematic areas:** sustainable procurement, standards, local governance, monitoring and evaluation...

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<sup>i</sup> Shepherd, K.D., Shepherd, G. & Walsh, M.G. (2015) Land health surveillance and response: A framework for evidence-informed land management. *Agricultural Systems*, 132, 93–106.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.agsy.2014.09.002>