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## A new deal for Nature

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In 2020, world leaders will meet in China to agree on a new set of commitments to conserve nature. They will also review progress towards targets set in 2010; but the news is not all good. Only a quarter of land on Earth is substantively free of the impacts of human activities. This is projected to decline to just one-tenth by 2050. The implications of such drastic changes in nature for human health, well-being, security and economic development are staggering.

Because our current pathway is unsustainable, humans and nature alike need a new deal - a new way to coexist and thrive. Transformed political approaches, bold visions and effective leadership are essential to address our complex challenges and to start making better decisions that don't imperil the future. We must take concerted actions across the whole of society, including citizens, corporates and countries, to deliver an ambitious agenda for action. By working with, rather than against nature, we can meet the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNEP's mandate to set the global environment agenda and drive collaborative action, means we are calling for **five transformations** to recalibrate humanity's relationship with nature, and harness nature-based solutions for climate change.

Account for the True Value of Nature

Change the Way We Produce and Consume Food

Conserve Wildlife and Wild Spaces

Restore the Degraded Planet

Promote a Better Built Environment

### Account for the True Value of Nature

Global decision-making in government ministries, corporate board rooms and in individual purchasing currently undervalue and overexploit the natural world. We fail to account for the full economic value of natural capital, such as the value of biodiversity in both providing the clean air, water, food and temperature regulation we need and in counteracting human impacts that degrade the land, water and air. To correct such gross market failures we call upon world leaders to recognize nature's role in supporting economic activity and ensuring ecological and human health. Tools for better accounting of natural capital exist, but they have yet to be used to inform development decisions at any significant scale to meet the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. UNEP calls for:

- A commitment to implement natural capital accounting in Systems of National Accounts by 2030.
- Innovative fiscal reforms that eliminate the most perverse subsidies (especially those which support unsustainable agriculture) which drive biodiversity loss and degradation through land use change.
- Legal and market incentives for nature-friendly goods and services through improved certification, labelling and regulation.

### Change the Way We Produce and Consume Food

The way we produce and consume food is causing major environmental and human health problems such as polluted water, depleted soils, the wholesale loss of forests and the species that call them home, release of enormous quantities of greenhouse gases, and wasted food clogging landfills. A toxic cocktail of unsustainable agricultural expansion, fuelled by pesticide and fertiliser use is fragmenting and shrinking natural space. At the same time, the world's food needs are not being met while around a third of the food produced is wasted. World leaders need to commit to a new set of measures that will put agriculture on a clean and sustainable track. UNEP calls for:

- Fully integrated land use planning to ensure food security while also protecting biodiversity and securing healthy water supplies.
- Scaled up investments in sustainable farming that protects nature and enhances climate change mitigation, adaptation, and healthy food and fibre production.
- Commitments to transform supply chains to promote positive biodiversity outcomes, with increased transparency and traceability for consumers and financial decision-makers.
- Increased awareness and advocacy to encourage a transition to healthier plant-based diets and more sustainable sources of protein, including incentives for all people to eat and live more sustainably and waste less food.

### Conserve Wildlife and Wild Spaces

Oceans, forests, rivers, peatlands, and drylands all share a disturbing potential common future - one of continued destruction, degradation and fragmentation. Wild species and the values they provide are decreasing at alarming rates. Overconsumption of wildlife, be it legal or illegal, erodes our natural assets. A new global effort is needed to invest in the restorative power of nature, with commitments to secure and maintain the world's most important natural areas. UNEP calls for:

- A commitment to no net loss of intact habitats.
- More science-based, cross sector planning and decision-making to effectively conserve priority land and seascapes.
- An increase in secured and restored wild places that benefit from improved management and regained ecological functions.
- Enhanced investment in robust biodiversity-based economies that increase benefit flows to the people living with and bearing the costs of wildlife.
- Improved political and economic approaches to address unsustainable levels of legal trade and halt illegal trade in wildlife and timber.

### Restore the Degraded Planet

Unsustainable human activities, from farming and mining to industry and infrastructure, are undermining the productivity of vast areas of farmland, forests and other ecosystems across all continents. This degradation threatens food security, water supplies and the biodiversity upon which human development depends. It drives and is exacerbated by climate change. UNEP calls for:

- Increased efforts to meet the global target of restoring at least 350 million hectares of degraded landscapes by 2030.
- Governments to shift from subsidies and other incentives that encourage degradation towards policies that reward restoration and sustainable resource use.
- All Governments and stakeholders to scale up restoration action under the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021-2030
- Expanded use of agroecological farming practices.
- Stronger restoration initiatives at all scales to tap into the growing expertise and support available from organizations
- Better access to funding for restoration for national and local government and the private sector, through bilateral and multilateral donors, including those funding climate action.

### Promote a Better Built Environment

We are in a time of unprecedented global change, with mass urbanisation of the planet expected in the next 15 years. In addition, investments of around US\$90 trillion are expected in infrastructure during that same period. As new roads are built and cities expand to accommodate a growing human population with demands for energy and water, we cannot risk any further unravelling of ecosystem services. Increased investment in climate resilient infrastructure is needed and the experience, tools and best practices exist. UNEP calls for:

- Integration of sustainability principles and guidelines into all infrastructure design, planning, construction and maintenance.
- Use of ecological infrastructure in place of human-engineered infrastructure to achieve benefits for nature and people, as well as long-term cost savings and climate resilience.
- Holistic infrastructure planning and for mitigating detrimental impacts of infrastructure projects on nature.
- Increased promotion of innovative financing that supports green infrastructure.
- Increased awareness for more nature-friendly and conscious consumption regarding infrastructure decision-making.
- Nothing short of a global movement is necessary to realize a sustainable future. Many partners have already begun to initiate their own actions and UNEP will bring complementary capacities in the following ways:

We will make the case for nature using the **best available science**, and convening to advance a new political agenda.

We will **partner and advocate** for new, robust and transformative commitments from governments, businesses and people.

We will help countries to develop a clear set of **effective policies and standards** that can be implemented by 2030.

We will use our assets to advance **informed actions** and ensure accountability.

