

Transformative actions to **halt and reverse** the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services are fundamental to achieve the SDG and rebuild a **resilient and sustainable post-pandemic** world.

The COVID-19 pandemic is a prime example of how vulnerable our societies are as well as how interlinked we all are to each other and to nature. Furthermore, zoonotic diseases like COVID-19 expose the close relationship between nature and people. We increase our vulnerability to such diseases through environmental degradation. Having and maintaining healthy ecosystems are an important foundation to uphold the health of the global community and loss of biodiversity cripples our resilience. By protecting nature, we protect ourselves. Thus, it is crucial that we protect nature as well as ourselves and take strict measures to prevent loss of biodiversity and be able to meet our SDGs's.

Habitat restoration is also a potential long term solution to rebuild a resilient and sustainable post-pandemic world. Prior to an area being damaged by human impacts, we can try to return it to its natural state. This means bringing back plants and animals which previously lived there. This is a promising way of returning biodiversity to a region especially since COVID-19 has interrupted several food chains and food webs in various regions. Ministers can promote involvement of a broad range of actors in the development and scaling up of effective actions, including indigenous peoples and local communities, local and sub-national authorities, women and youth groups which will also help meet several SDGs.

Taking steps to reduce climate change would be very beneficial in the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. This could include taking actions such as minimising the use of fossil fuels and replacing these with alternative energy sources natural or sustainable products. This also focuses on plastic waste disposal. A recent study showed that it can be expected that 75% of used masks will end up in landfills or in water bodies, hence Ministers and government officials should work together on the basis of international partnerships & commitment to impose guidelines that help citizens dispose plastic properly in order to prevent loss of biodiversity and meet SDG. For example introducing a legislation that protects natural habitats by outlawing development, harvesting of natural resources, or other human exploitation has a huge impact on maintaining natural biodiversity. In addition to this, nature preserves protect a region and the organisms that live there from certain forms of development and provide access for people to visit them. We would greatly benefit from the introduction of nature reserves in different areas around the world. This is excellent because it protects the natural habitat and is a place where people can view the ecosystem, hence aiding in reducing the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems.

Buying and actively using sustainable products that are now labeled with ecolabels that state if they are environmentally friendly would also help halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services. Our consumption of natural resources is one of the key reasons for biodiversity loss, so it is our responsibility to maximise our consumption of products that are produced in the most sustainable way possible; small changes we could make on a daily basis are taking shorter showers, riding a bike to work, or buying ecolabeled products it helps reduce the amount of resources we consume and use.

I really appreciate the opportunity to be able to provide constructive solutions to the existing Draft Outline Document. I hope that my suggested solutions aid as a constructive addition to the existing Draft Outline Document for the Ministerial Outcome Document of the 2021 UN Environment Assembly.