

AGENDA ITEM 3

‘Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in Asia and the Pacific’

REGIONAL OVERVIEW

**5 subregions
41 countries**

**17 of the 36 global
biodiversity hotspots**

**7 of the 17
megadiverse
countries**

**Contributing to over two
thirds of the global
economic growth**

**5 subregions
41 countries**

**Population projected to
rise to 5.2 billion by 2050**

**Among fastest
urbanization rate in the
world, 2 – 3 % per year**

**Confronted by pollution
and environmental crisis**

PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Steep decline in large wild mammals and birds

Declining crop genetic resources

Growing number/abundance of Invasive Alien Species

All major ecosystems are threatened

If business as usual continues, by 2050, 45% anticipated biodiversity loss with some extinction

Pressures on biodiversity and ecosystems due to growing demand for food, agricultural intensification and extensive use of agro-chemicals

Water scarcity leading to reduced agricultural productivity, food scarcity, unemployment and poverty

PROGRESS TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



The region is not on track to achieve any of the SDGs by 2030 without accelerated efforts!



KEY ACTION AREAS FOR ADVANCING ACTIONS ON NATURE TO ACHIEVE SDGS



Nature for Poverty
Eradication, Jobs and
Economic Prosperity



Nature for Climate



Nature for Human and
Ecosystem Health



Nature for Sustainable
Food Systems



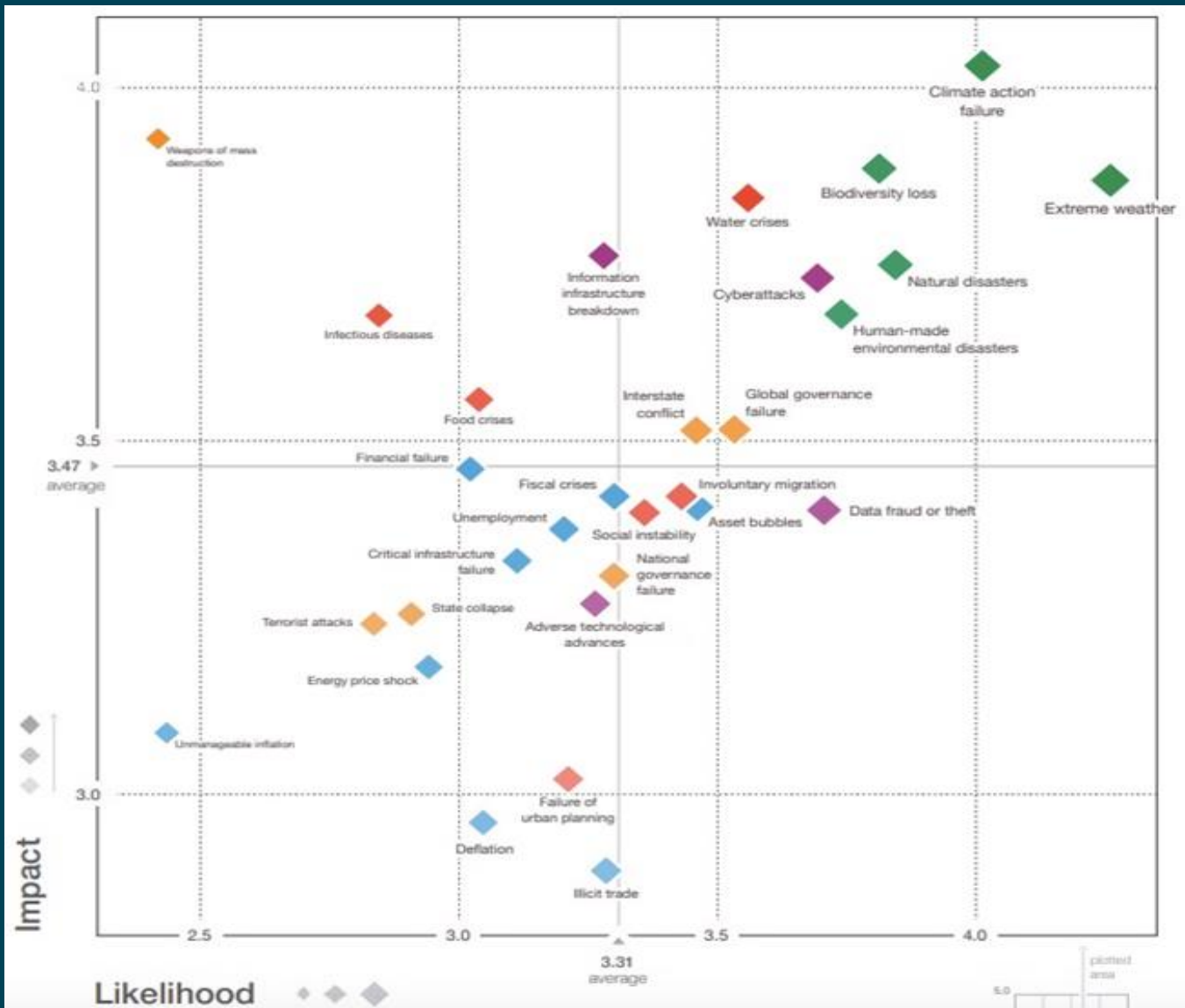
Nature for Poverty Eradication, Jobs and Economic Prosperity

Issues at Stake

- ❑ The economic fallout from COVID-19 estimated to be USD 1.5 trillion in 2021
- ❑ 8.8% of global working hours were lost in 2020
- ❑ Impacts of COVID-19 lockdown and containment measures on poverty
- ❑ Opportunity for 'building back better' not fully utilized, with limited focus on sustainability
- ❑ Strong dependency of our life and economy on nature

Opportunities for Future Actions

- ❑ Green and blue stimulus packages to 'build back better'
- ❑ Mobilize and scale up sustainable finance
- ❑ Internalize natural capital values and move beyond GDP



For the first time, the top risks in the World Economic Forum's [Global Risk Report 2020](#) are environmental.

WEF's [Nature Risk Rising Report](#) finds that **half of global GDP** is dependent on nature.



Nature for Climate

Issues at Stake

- ❑ Increased vulnerability to the impacts of climate change
- ❑ Growing risk of abrupt and irreversible changes in the climate system – ‘tipping points’
- ❑ Strong need to ensure COVID-19 recovery efforts are ‘climate-smart’ and ‘nature-positive’

Opportunities for Future Actions

- ❑ Nature-positive solutions in urban and rural contexts
- ❑ Enhanced role of private sector and financial institutions
- ❑ Increased ambition on climate change through Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Nature for Human and Ecosystem Health

Issues at Stake

- ❑ Growing recognition on the links between human, animal and environmental health
- ❑ Pollution (air, water, plastics, chemicals and waste) with significant negative impacts on human health and well-being in the region
- ❑ Around ¼ of all disease and death globally are attributable to environmental hazards

Opportunities for Future Actions

- ❑ Strengthen biosecurity and efforts on protecting and restoring nature
- ❑ Increased focus on One Health and Planetary Health
- ❑ Apply economic policies and fiscal instruments to reduce pollution
- ❑ Leave no one behind through rights-based approaches that address vulnerabilities



Nature for Sustainable Food Systems

Issues at Stake

- ❑ Food systems depend on biodiversity and ecosystem services that support agricultural productivity, soil fertility, and water quality and supply
- ❑ Agrifood systems as major drivers of environmental damage
- ❑ Increased environmental footprints along the agrifood value chain

Opportunities for Future Actions

- ❑ Shift to nature-positive and equitable production systems
- ❑ Repurpose agricultural subsidies
- ❑ Reinvest in nature and shift economic priorities
- ❑ Promote sustainable consumption

BUILDING ON THE OUTCOMES OF THE UN FOOD SYSTEMS SUMMIT



ACTION TRACK #1:
**ENSURE
ACCESS TO
SAFE AND
NUTRITIOUS
FOOD FOR ALL**



ACTION TRACK #2:
**SHIFT TO
SUSTAINABLE
CONSUMPTION
PATTERNS**



ACTION TRACK #3:
**BOOST NATURE-
POSITIVE
PRODUCTION**



ACTION TRACK #4:
**ADVANCE
EQUITABLE
LIVELIHOODS**



ACTION TRACK #5:
**BUILD RESILIENCE TO
VULNERABILITIES,
SHOCKS AND STRESS**



EXAMPLES OF EXISTING INITIATIVES IN THE REGION

PAKISTAN

Nature-positive 'Green Stimulus' package introduced in 2020, focused on job creation, ecosystem restoration, establishment of a National Parks Service, supported by 'Debt for Nature' swaps

CAMBODIA & LAO PDR

The World Conservation Society (WCS) supports the efforts in addressing health concerns related to the spread of disease from the movement of wildlife in the illegal trade chains

INDIA

In Kerala, an ecosystem-based disaster risk reduction (DRR) programme is implemented as part of the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guaranteed Scheme, which employs 2.6 million women

REGIONAL

With support under UNEP's TEEB AgriFood programme, some countries in the region are working to reveal the economic value of nature in agri-food sectors and evaluate pathways for change



Making peace with nature is the defining task of the coming decades. We must seize the opportunity presented by the COVID-19 crisis to accelerate change.

António Guterres, UN Secretary-General

An integrated approach is essential towards addressing the triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution

'Actions on nature to achieve SDGs' that address the underlying root causes of interlinked environmental problems is more cost-effective and more likely to be successful than treating the issues individually

There is a unique opportunity for the international community to leverage other strategic 'nature focused' commitments and action plans that underpin the UN Decade of Action to deliver the Global Goals (2020-2030) - UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration (2021-2030), Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to be adopted at CBD COP15, outcomes of UNFCCC COP26, UN Food Systems Summit, etc.