

5th UN Environmental Assembly
Leadership Dialogue
SPEAKING NOTES

Theme – Contribution of the environmental dimension of sustainable development to building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world

14h20 – 14h35

Guiding questions for the Leadership Dialogue:

1. Which concrete measures will you take or have you already taken as a leader to ensure that the environmental dimension of sustainable development is fully taken into consideration in a balanced and holistic manner when building a resilient and inclusive post-pandemic world?
2. How can the global community best work together to build a stronger political momentum towards achieving this aim?
3. What role should UNEP and the United Nations play in supporting this aim in the light of the new UNEP medium-term strategy and programme of work and budget?

Ministers and other high-level representatives are also invited to announce new or existing concrete actions by their respective Governments or organizations that will promote the environmental dimension.

[BEGIN – **MAX 3 minutes**]

- Your Excellencies, distinguished participants, ladies and gentlemen
- The ongoing pandemic has caused immense suffering and ground nations to a halt. We have to make

sure we build back better and greener.

- The evidence is clear: Widespread investment in nature offers quick and highly attractive returns for all. For example, planting trees or restoring floodplains are labour-intensive tasks that fit well in the public employment programs of stimulus packages.
- Already, in Europe, the Natura 2000 Network of protected areas supports 4.4 million jobs, while providing services and benefits worth up to \$339 billion per year.
- A Nature-based Recovery is cost-effective, creates jobs, and crucially – safeguards us against future pandemics.
- IUCN is analysing a range of investment avenues that stimulate economic activity, conserve nature, and foster sustainable development.

Guided by tools such as the IUCN Nature-based Solutions Standard and the Environmental Rule of Law, this catalogue of nature-positive interventions will support decision-makers worldwide.

- On this basis, I have launched the “Nature-based Recovery”, an IUCN initiative that aims to ensure at least 10% and where possible up to 30% of overall investments in stimulus packages are channelled to nature, nature-based solutions, and to interventions that add value to nature.
- To make sure these measures continue after the pandemic, we’re working with many of you on the “Finance for Nature” Initiative to mainstream investment flows that internalise nature-related risks, and ensure that our natural capital can grow.

- By working with our 1,400 Member organisations, comprising states, ministries, NGOs, and indigenous peoples, IUCN urge the world to make investments in nature the norm.
- I invite you to join us in the Nature-based Recovery Initiative.
- Ultimately, through the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the Kunming COP that adopts an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework, and the Glasgow climate summit, we will forge a post-pandemic path where economic recovery and environmental sustainability are one and the same
- Thank you

[END]