



HIGH IMPACT INITIATIVE:

NATURE DRIVING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

LEVERAGING THE POWER OF BIODIVERSITY AND NATURE TO DRIVE EQUITABLE ECONOMIC PROGRESS

The 2030 Agenda is a promise, not a guarantee, and halfway to the 2030 deadline, we are not halfway there. To succeed in the second half, we need to take a significant leap forward and embrace the radical political, economic and social change that the SDGs demand. This requires ambitious action at speed and at scale and an ever expanding alliance of actors pushing in the same direction. To support this effort, the United Nations has joined with Member States and key stakeholders to generate fresh political leadership and integrated support across some of the most critical aspects of the SDGs. Known as the High Impact Initiatives, together, they can deliver fresh momentum. They can prove that keeping the 2030 promise is still possible.

Dedicated sessions will be convened for each initiative at the SDG Action Weekend, on September 17, 2023. Further information can be found [here](#).

VISION FOR IMPACT

The world's ecosystems, biodiversity and natural resources are fundamental to human health and well-being, as well as to sustainable and resilient economies. In addition, healthy biodiversity and ecosystems are fundamental to the enjoyment of human rights. Billions of people around the world rely on over 50,000 wild species for food, energy, medicine and other uses, with 70 per cent of the world's poor being directly dependent on wild species that require productive biodiverse landscapes. Furthermore, sustainable use of wild species is central to the identities and existence of many indigenous peoples and local communities. Ensuring sustainability in the use of wild species is critical to reverse the global trend of biodiversity decline.

This initiative focuses on assisting countries to fundamentally shift economic policymaking in favor of sustainability, resilience, and equity. A group of champion countries committed to sustainable use of biodiversity will be launched and will demonstrate viable pathways for change for a diverse set of contexts.

As we strive towards impact by 2030, the ambition of this Initiative for the next seven years includes an annual increase in Member States participating, that twenty Member States announce biodiversity-based economic policies by 2030, and that an investment of USD \$100 million is made annually to biodiversity focused economic investments by 2025. The High Impact Initiative will also support the realization of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the implementation of the human right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and the commitments made under multilateral environmental agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

OVERVIEW: NATURE DRIVING ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

Nature has the power to drive economic transformation, as reflected in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework adopted by 193 parties in 2022. Based on principles of sustainable use, equity and access and benefit sharing that leave no one behind, delivery of this Framework can catalyze more action in support of key SDGs.

Three key pillars make up this High Impact Initiative.

1. **Advocacy**, using experience, science and evidence, is needed to leverage the full value and potential of nature to drive economic and social transformation.
2. **Environmental-economic accounting frameworks** that measure and value nature's contribution to our economies need scalable rollout in national economic development plans – we cannot manage what we do not measure. Effective risk-informed approaches that are grounded in equitable, socially just and inclusive governance will be amplified.
3. **Concrete action** must be taken based on these measurements, specifically across financing, institutional reform and country leadership. Significant new investment, from a range of sources, is needed in countries that have demonstrated commitment through their policy and enabling environment. This High Impact Initiative will leverage UN reform and associated commitments from the entire UN system to deliver the UN Common Approach to Biodiversity and Nature-based Solutions to support country leadership in making their economic transition.¹

ACCELERATING THE SDGS

This High Impact Initiative specifically supports whole-of-society approaches, bridging sectoral worlds of environment, economy, agriculture and others. As such, prioritizing investments in biodiversity will drive significant progress across SDGs:

- **SDG8 Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG10 Reduced Inequalities:** This High Impact Initiative promotes enabling policies to account for nature, de-risk investments and support its sustainable use to drive economic prosperity and socially equitable wealth generation. The implementation of approaches that shift public and private sector policies and investments to positive outcomes for nature and that more accurately value biodiversity and nature as part of national economic accounts, while eliminating harmful incentives and subsidies, should contribute to more sustainable agrifood systems, the creation of new jobs and increasing social and environmental resilience at the local level.²
- **SDG12 Responsible Consumption and Production:** Shifting to a sustainable bioeconomy addresses environmental challenges and preserves finite natural resources while providing food, feed, wood products and furniture, paper, bio-based textiles, biochemicals, biopharmaceuticals, and bioenergy for a growing population. It promotes bioprocesses and circular value chains that allow for more sustainable production patterns that produce more with fewer resources and turn waste into valuable by-products, thereby reducing pressure on our ecosystems.
- **SDG14 Life Below Water, SDG15 Life on Land, SDG13 Climate:** Prioritizing biodiversity directly promotes these SDGs, providing the essential resources to support a range of foods, medicines, livelihoods and societal activities and with ecosystems serving an essential role in limiting climate change.

Citations and Footnotes: 1. See also United Nations, "50+ ways to integrate biodiversity and nature-based solutions – a UN system commitment to collective action for people and planet", 5 May 2021, https://unsceb.org/sites/default/files/2022-01/Biodiversity_Common_Approach_50%2B_ways_to_integrate_biodiversity_and_nature-based_solutions.pdf. 2. UNDP, "Technical Note on Biodiversity and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", 12 December 2016, <https://www.cbd.int/development/doc/biodiversity-2030-agenda-technical-note-en.pdf>.

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For an overview of the High Impact Initiatives visit the [Transformative Actions](#) action tab on the [SDG Summit website](#).

Leading agency



Collaborating agencies

FAO, CBD, UNDP, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDRR, UN Habitat, WFP, WIPO

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