

The IPBES Global Assessment, the most comprehensive assessment on biodiversity and people ever carried out, shows three clear conclusions:

. First, people are deeply dependent on the fabric of life on Earth: we found that nature and its contributions to people underpin the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

. Second, the deterioration of nature due to human actions is vast, having speeded up dramatically in the past 5 decades.

. Third, this appropriation of nature and the unprecedented global connectivity have not led to a fairer world; rather they are exacerbating inequalities.

As a result, the world is clearly not on track to achieving the SDGs.

And under business-as-usual scenarios all these trends will only worsen in the future.

But there is hope. We identified some plausible scenarios which are compatible with the 2030 sustainability objectives. But all these scenarios involve transformative change at the level of the root socio-economic causes of today's crisis.

In view of these findings, and also in view of COVID-19, we have 3 major recommendations for action:

. First, do no harm. Make sure the post-COVID-19 recovery packages do not further compromise the health of people and nature. Unfortunately, we are not seeing this in most of the rescue packages announced so far.

. Second, re-allocate incentives, subsidies and investment. The trends we see today have been possible because of large incentives to activities that are clearly harmful to nature and to most people. We need a drastic re-allocation of carrots and sticks, in the form of subsidies, incentives, investment and regulations: decisively rewarding actions that promote sustainability, and firmly discouraging harmful activities.

. And finally, mainstream nature and people's health in all sectors - Build biodiversity and health considerations and safeguards in all the major sectors of the economy, not just in environmental policy. Think, for example, how the new initiatives on food, energy, infrastructure, how the new jobs being planned can build on and enhance the fabric of life on Earth, rather than eroding it.

#### Further reflections on the basis of the round of panelist interventions:

There are indeed some bright spots, good examples from around the world of how negative environmental change can be reverted. But if one looks at the calculations of what sort of efforts will be needed to achieve certain minimum goals, it is clear that the majority of good examples are not deployed at the depth and scale required for transformative change. Their are useful proofs of concept, but to achieve the futures we want, we need to dramatically

increase the scale of action, and go deeper, further and faster. And we need to start immediately.

The path is not going to be easy; it will hurt some interests and sectors, but it will definitely hurt less, cost less money and harm fewer people than the business-as-usual scenarios.

We would like to commend Governments to be swift and ambitious in leading the way to implementing this necessary transformative change.