



II. Nature-based Solutions¹ can make a critical contribution to both climate change mitigation and adaptation while also supporting biodiversity conservation, health, poverty eradication and other societal objectives agreed to under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition to undertaking deep GHG emission reductions across all sectors, IUCN urges all Parties to clearly recognise and support the enhanced implementation of Nature-based Solutions, including through formal decision text at COP26.

- Recent analysis published in *Nature* in 2021 shows that Nature-based Solutions – based on the protection, restoration and sustainable management of the world’s ecosystems – can have a powerful role in reducing temperatures in the long term. It estimates that Nature-based Solutions could save 10 gigatonnes of CO₂e per year, more than the emissions from the entire global transportation sector ([Girardin et al 2021](#)). Previous studies have estimated that Nature-based Solutions could contribute around 30% of the global mitigation required by 2030/2050 to achieve the 1.5/2°C temperature rise goal agreed to under the Paris Agreement ([Griscom et al 2017](#), [Roe et al 2019](#)).
- The adaptation benefits of investing in Nature-based Solutions are also amply clear. For instance, mangrove ecosystems alone are estimated to provide over US\$ 65 billion in flood protection benefits and safeguard 15 million people against flooding across the world every year ([Menéndez et al 2020](#)). More generally, it is estimated that the protection of coastal ecosystems can benefit upwards of 500 million people globally, bringing benefits of over \$100 billion per year ([Seddon et al 2021](#)). For inland ecosystems, afforestation/reforestation and improved and sustainable forest management are estimated to provide climate adaptation benefits for over 25 million people ([Smith et al 2019](#)).

- IUCN welcomes the growing recognition of Nature-based Solutions across the world today, including in the [2021 IPBES-IPCC Co-sponsored Workshop Report on Biodiversity and Climate Change](#) and the recent ministerial communiqués of the [G7](#) and [G20](#) released in May and July 2021 respectively. IUCN also welcomes the thematic prioritisation of Nature and Nature-based Solutions by the UK COP26 Presidency.
- Building on the above, and recalling the decision taken by Parties at UNFCCC COP25 that ‘*Underlines the essential contribution of nature to addressing climate change and its impacts and the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in an integrated manner*’ ([Decision 1/CP.25, para 15](#)), IUCN urges all Parties in Glasgow to further operationalise this decision by clearly recognising and supporting the enhanced implementation of Nature-based Solutions in COP26 decision text, in line with the best international standards and guidance available.² For example, IUCN would propose the following language

¹ IUCN defines Nature-based Solutions as ‘actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits’. This is the definition formally adopted by IUCN’s 1,400+ State and NGO Members at the *2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress* in Hawaii, USA through [Resolution 69](#), and represents the most widely accepted global definition.

of Paris Agreement signatories included Nature-based Solutions in their NDCs, these were not substantive or stringent enough. A subsequent [WWF study](#) published in 2021 indicates a positive trend with a majority of the 55 enhanced NDCs submitted until May 2021 clearly referencing Nature-based Solutions in their mitigation or adaptation measures.

- However, considerable potential remains f1 onns q1g759 -1C /Pr-0.002021aptn tolof -

GHG emission reductions and must not be used to delay the urgent action required today to phase out fossil fuels and decarbonize the world economy.

VI. IUCN welcomes the progress being made for the preparation of the first Global Stocktake under Article 14 of the Paris Agreement and calls for a systematic consideration of Nature-based Solutions under this process.

- Noting that the Global Stocktake is crucial for enhancing the collective ambition of action and support towards achieving the purpose and long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, IUCN welcomes the opportunity provided to non-Party stakeholders to engage and contribute to this process.
- In particular, IUCN urges