



Towards an IUCN nature-positive approach: a working paper



- To deliver a nature-positive future, the world needs to be able to measure



A nature-positive future is an essential goal, but as yet an undefined one. To avoid greenwashing and help align nature-positive ambitions and actions, the paper presents this working definition:

"A nature-positive future means that we, as a global society, halt and reverse the loss of nature measured from its current status, reducing future negative impacts alongside restoring and renewing nature, to put both living and non-living nature measurably on the path to recovery."



As organisations make commitments and implement actions, they move along the pathway, **progressing towards becoming nature-positive**. The combined contributions of many companies, civil society and governments can be measured to show progress towards nature-positive alignment on a global scale.

The IUCN approach is **complementary to other nature-positive approaches** in that it

- **focuses on living nature, or biodiversity** rather than non-living nature such as water, air and soil
- **quantifies negative and positive contributions**, allowing assessments of potential and **delivered impacts** across the globe, and for contributions to be compared and aggregated
- **Allows progress towards delivery of contributions to be measured**

The IUCN approach is quantitative but practical, with emphasis on incentivising early action.

In time, IUCN will seek to **integrate nature-positive and climate commitments**, accounting for the numerous links between them. In doing so, it will enable progress towards global biodiversity and climate goals to be coordinated.

IUCN is uniquely placed to enable the delivery of a nature-positive future.

The Union harnesses the knowledge, resources and reach of our more than 1,400 Member organisations and 15,000 experts. It is this diversity of expertise that makes our Union the global authority on the status of nature and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Our Nature-Positive approach focuses on two key elements

- Stemming biodiversity loss through reducing species extinction risk
- Biodiversity recovery through ecosystem conservation and restoration

The approach leverages our expertise by applying our **long-established global standards and data**, such as the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ and, in due course, the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems. These metrics **already contribute significantly** to conservation globally, and **guarantee assessments of nature-positive will be evidence-based**.

IUCN's working paper is currently a work in progress, and will now be subject to a full **consultation process**. There will be opportunities to further engage in the process both during and after the IUCN Leaders Forum.

Ultimately, this approach will be a catalyst for the delivery of the **global biodiversity framework through the collective efforts of all sectors of society**.

