

WHY INVEST IN PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS NOW?

Half of the world's GDP (US \$44 trillion) [depends on nature and its services](#). Yet funding for environmental protection is woefully insufficient; the [biodiversity financing gap](#) is estimated at around US\$ 700 billion. This financing gap has been made worse by the COVID-19 crisis, particularly through collapses in [nature-based tourism revenues](#) and [rollbacks to conservation budgets and regulations](#).

Countries will need to create or ~~re~~establish jobs quickly during and after the COVID-19 crisis. 6 (o) 234 ,ed]234 ,icede dCicse wll (r re)]TJ 0 Tc 0 T

RECOMMENDATIONS: KEY PRINCIPLES TO GUIDE POSTURE RECOVERY THAT SUPPORTS PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS

1. Support the role of existing and new PCAs in COVID recovery strategies
 - Establish and expand PCAs toward meeting global pledges (e.g. 30x30)
 - Strengthen PCA governance and management for effective and equitable conservation.
 - Seek synergies and provide multiple benefits by directing funding towards programmes that provide jobs and bolster PCAs simultaneously

Some governments are already taking action. To date, at least seven countries and the EU

that undermine biodiversity can also be allocated to support PCAs. Additional finance mechanisms that can be used to support PCAs, from both domestic and international sources, and tailored to different environments and contexts, include: [biodiversity offsets](#), [payments for ecosystem services](#), [nature linked endowments](#), [natural infrastructure investments](#), [conservation trust funds](#), [carbon taxes](#), [reinsurance schemes](#), [certification schemes](#), [carbon credits](#) and [crowdfunding](#). For decisions related to financing models, working with those living within or near to PCAs can ensure that the most suitable and locally appropriate financial models are chosen.

Support for conservation in nature-based recovery is gaining momentum. Recent commitments signal increased momentum for nature protection. For instance, dozens of countries have signed the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), which calls for protection of at least 30 per cent of land and ocean by 2030 and commits to putting biodiversity, climate and the environment at the heart of COVID recovery.