

## **IUCN Operational Framework for Engagement with the Oil and Gas Sector**

Approved by the IUCN Council, decision C108/18 (January 2023)

The aim of this paper is to set out how IUCN intends to engage with the Oil and Gas sector in s of engagement and to ensure that they are underpinned with a high level of integrity, scientific rigour and accountability, particularly in terms of transitioning toward net zero and nature positive outcomes.

The Operational Framework for the Engagement with the Oil and Gas Sector provides guidance and clarifies principles under which IUCN Secretariat engages with energy producers and more specifically, oil

**Section 2: IUCN Secretariat principles for engaging with the oil and gas sector:**

IUCN frames its approach to working with the Oil and Gas Sector as follows:-

- We reiterate the global consensus that there is an urgent and immediate need for the world to stay within a 1.5°C aligned carbon budget.
- We support a just and rapid transition away from the current fossil fuel-dependent economic model, based on the best available science and in a manner that avoids unintended negative consequences on people and nature.
- We strongly support the global goal to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2050.
- We will maintain operational independence from fossil fuel funding. In practice, this means that IUCN will not seek unrestricted funding from oil and gas companies and that resourcing to support bilateral engagements will be limited to those programmatic activities that clearly target their low carbon transition and the minimisation of their negative impacts on biodiversity and nature.
- We will not work with companies that have not made public commitments to the Paris Agreement target and to halting and reversing biodiversity loss

IUCN recognises that a significant number of private and public actors in the oil and gas sector, particularly the fossil fuel industry, are not on track to meet climate and biodiversity global goals. In this regard, IUCN will engage with oil and gas companies on the basis of the following principles:

- We encourage private and public sector actors to set science-based decarbonisation targets which are independently validated, open to public scrutiny and aligned within a 1.5°C trajectory in the short, medium- and long-term;
- We urge private and public actors (including regulators) to implement rapid decarbonisation strategies including to stop permitting, exploring and extracting as yet untapped oil and gas reserves
- We urge the fossil fuel industry to focus on rapid and urgent mitigation actions that result in direct and substantial reductions in Scope 1, 2 and 3 greenhouse gas emissions.
- We encourage companies in the fossil fuel sector to invest in Nature-based Solutions for mitigation as an additional action beyond their value chain and urge them not to use resulting credits for their interim emissions reductions required by their net zero pathway
- We expect all private and public actors in the oil and gas sector (including those transitioning to renewables) to commit to and pursue at least No Net Loss (NNL) and preferably Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) in all new operations or expansions.
- We expect all private and public actors in the oil and gas sector to contribute to robust nature-positive actions and outcomes within the context of a just energy transition, working to ensure greater access to renewable energy for communities that have little or no access to affordable and reliable energy sources that have been ignored during the fossil fuel era
- We expect corporate support and operational implementation of IFC principles
- We expect corporate partners/collaborators to genuinely support the goals and aims of the Paris Agreement. We do not expect to or indirectly (via other platforms) seek to undermine the Agreement.

**Section 3. Objectives of**



This framework is delivered by:

- Undertaking systematic analysis and management of significant risks and opportunities associated with specific engagements, including the commitments and actions of the companies concerned;
- Building a transparent, trusted and honest relationship with collaborating companies and governments through open communication and the provision of information and advice;
- Ensuring direct and sustained consultation with relevant IUCN Members and Regional Offices with respect to specific place-based engagements;
- Promoting science and evidence-based mutual learning;
- Considering wider landscapes and context;
- Enhancing capacity with key stakeholders, principally companies and governments;
- Championing the application of rights-based approaches; and
- Providing input into, and adopting, relevant sustainability standards and certification schemes.



## **Annex II. Select Relevant IUCN Resolutions and Recommendations**

[WCC 2020 Res 033](#): Promoting biodiversity preservation through environmentally friendly energy transformation measures

[WCC 2016 Res 056](#), IUCN response to the Paris Climate Change Agreement

[WCC 2016 Res 066](#), Strengthening corporate biodiversity measurement, valuation and reporting

[WCC 2016 Res 054](#): Protecting the world's greatest salmon fishery in Bristol Bay, Alaska from large-scale mining

[WCC 2016 Res 053](#): Protecting