

High-Level Political Forum 2024

United Nations HQ, 8 – 18 July 2024, New York, United States of America

Key messages

- HLPF 2024 needs to be a moment to follow up on the commitment from the 2023 SDG Summit to ensure the lasting protection of the planet and its natural resources. The declaration should make a strong case for **urgent action on the triple planetary crisis through a rights-based approach**.
- **The declaration should focus on synergies between the SDGs** and prioritize policies and investments that have multiplier effects across the Sustainable Development Goals. **While some of the interlinkages between SDGs are synergistic, others involve significant trade-offs.** For example, a business-as-usual approach to addressing SDG 2 on zero hunger could contribute to competition over land, soil degradation and water pollution.
- **SDG 2 will not be achieved without a transformation of our global food system towards more sustainable forms of consumption and production.** Investing in sustainable agricultural practices and approaches that emphasize soil and land health could transform the sector into an instrument of progress towards several SDGs including those that relate to poverty, food security and climate change.
- **Nature-based Solutions (NbS) should be recognized as playing** a critical and supportive role to address today's environmental crisis, while simultaneously addressing other societal challenges.
- It is essential to include a commitment to secure a surge in SDG financing and an enabling global environment for developing countries. **IUCN proposes language urging countries to scale up and repurpose finance for biodiversity and climate, redirecting harmful subsidies, as well as making trade and the circular economy work against pollution and for nature.**

The triple planetary crisis has halted, slowed or reversed the progress of sustainable development. IUCN has drawn particular attention to the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution in recent years. Unless addressed in a comprehensive, synergetic, ambitious and timely manner, these twin interlinked long-term crises threaten to undermine the achievement of the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda. Climate change is estimated to push up to 130 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 (World Bank, 2020), and adversely impact food production and security (IPCC, 2023). Furthermore, it is estimated that 1.2 billion people, or 30% of the population across tropical countries, are highly dependent on nature for their basic needs (Fedele, 2021). With 80 per cent of the world's poorest people living in rural areas and being especially dependent on ecosystems, the growing loss and degradation of nature witnessed today can negatively impact their livelihoods, wellbeing and food security.

Business-as-usual approaches to our food and water systems are failing to protect both the environment, as well as many communities around the world. Agriculture and food systems are the leading drivers globally of land and sea-use change, water resource depletion and

can remove around 10 GtCO_{2e} per year while also providing a range of adaptation and other economic, social and environmental benefits (Girardin et al., 2021; UNEP and IUCN, 2021). Successfully addressing the triple planetary crisis will require strong, effective and inclusive institutions (SDG 16), as well as sufficient means of implementation and suitable partnerships (SDG 17) across all levels.

In the lead-up to the SDG summit in September 2023, IUCN published the report "[Seven years to save nature and people: a proposed set of policies and actions for the SDG Summit](#)". **Building on the key messages in this report, IUCN would like to present the following concrete proposals for inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration text:**

The chapeau should emphasize the need to prioritize policies and investments that have multiplier effects across the Sustainable Development Goals. This includes a direct mention to actions geared to safeguard areas of importance to biodiversity, covering at least 30% of global terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems; protect, restore, and promote healthy freshwater systems and habitats; implement Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation, resilience and disaster ence