

IUCN intervention in Talanoa Dialogue discussion session on “Where are we?”

Sunday 6 May 2018, 09:30-12.30, Talanoa Group ‘Bua’

Thank you Madam Facilitator – and Bula Vinaka to all.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) – on behalf of its 1300+ State and NGO members – is pleased to participate in the Talanoa Dialogue.

As we heard during the opening session, the impacts of climate change can be seen everywhere today. Vulnerable communities and nations are facing its worst impacts.

The world’s ecosystems – on which millions depend for their survival and livelihoods – are not being spared either.

IUCN’s experts, for instance, have found that more than 80% of the ecological processes that form the foundation for life on Earth are being impacted by climate change today.

Last year, at COP23, we released the World Heritage Outlook report, which found that the number of natural World Heritage Sites threatened by climate change has nearly doubled over the last 3 years – with 1 in 4 sites being impacted currently.

There is a clear need, therefore, for ambitious and early global action on climate change. One that involves all sectors and levels of society – and especially the reduction of fossil fuel-based emissions.

In today’s Talanoa Dialogue, IUCN would however like to draw particular attention to the critical role that conserving, restoring and sustainably managing the world’s ecosystems can play in providing practical nature-based solutions for both climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A number of Parties – including several IUCN State Members – have included a range of ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures in their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

This is to be warmly welcomed. But more can be done.

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