



## Transformative Action for Nature and People

*High-level event to showcase action to protect, conserve, sustainably use and restore nature and close the finance gap*

### CONCEPT NOTE

**Tentative date:** 22 September 2021, **Time:** 08.00-10.30 (EDT - NYC time)

At this high-level event in the margins of the 76th session of the UN General Assembly government leaders and partners will present transformative initiatives, policies and financing to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. These actions will demonstrate that protecting, conserving, sustainably using, and restoring nature can deliver multiple co-benefits for nature, climate, and sustainable development. The actions showcased will prove transformative action for nature is viable and urgent.

#### Event Objectives

- **To garner Leaders' Commitments and showcase specific and transformative actions** with a whole of government approach, from a wide range of Heads of State and Government and leaders of private sector, civil society, IPLCs and other relevant stakeholders to protect, conserve, sustainably use and restore nature to mobilize the necessary means of implementation
- **To rally political and financial momentum for nature** and motivate other countries and actors towards ambitious nature positive actions for biodiversity and people

**Hosts and co-sponsors:** The initiative goes out from a cross regional group of countries from Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas including Antigua & Barbuda, AOSIS, Belgium, Bhutan, Colombia, Costa Rica, EU, France, Gabon, UK, Vietnam as well as their partners: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), National Geographic & Campaign for Nature, Nature 4 Life Hub, Planetary Emergency Partnership, UNEP, UNDP, World Wide Fund for Nature WWF

#### Participants

Heads of State and Government will be the primary participants. The UN Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly as well as the current and incoming CBD and UNFCCC COP Presidencies will be invited, as well as representatives of Indigenous Peoples and civil society. Heads of UN entities, High level representatives from multilateral development banks and CEOs of businesses, financial institutions and foundations, are also invited.

#### Format of the event

It is assumed that the event will be hybrid. The tentative date is 22<sup>nd</sup> of September from 8-10.30 am (EST). If possible, in person participation in New York is foreseen. The event will be moderated by a High-Level leader and Heads of State and Government and partners will give short statements focused on significant actions they have undertaken since the 2020 UN Biodiversity Summit. The event will also include an interactive segment as well as statements/interventions from the private sector, financial institutions, or other non-state actors. Moreover, videos showcasing significant nature positive actions will be included.

## Background

This High Level event will build on the strong momentum for nature as outlined in the scientific literature (IPBES<sup>1</sup>, IPCC<sup>2</sup>, UNEP<sup>3</sup> IPBES on pandemics<sup>4</sup> and joint IPBES IPCC experts Workshop report<sup>5</sup>) to accelerate efforts, including as part of: the Decade of Action to deliver the SDGs, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration, the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development and high level commitments made over the past years such as the 2020 UN Summit on Biodiversity, the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, and the Global Ocean Alliance. Political momentum and high-level commitments have been made; now is the time for tangible transformative action and reporting on the progress of these commitments.

Key countries worldwide must lead the way indicating to citizens, businesses, financial institutions, and fellow governments that the move towards sustainable economies is urgent, viable, already happening, and will help prevent future pandemics. This move must incentivize full decarbonization as well as the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of nature, promoting sustainable livelihoods and wellbeing and living in harmony with nature. The contributions and efforts of all relevant actors, including international financial institutions, citizens and Indigenous Peoples and local communities, must be recognized.



<sup>1</sup> [Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Special report on Climate Change and Land](#)

<sup>3</sup> [UNEP 2021 Report – Making Peace with Nature](#)

<sup>4</sup> [IPBES #PandemicsReport: Escaping the 'Era of Pandemics](#)

<sup>5</sup> [IPBES-IPCC CO-Sponsored Workshop Biodiversity And Climate Change Workshop Report](#)

The stakes could not be higher, and the current decade is decisive. What we do or don't do over the next ten years will have an impact on all generations to come. Each half degree, each year, each choice matters. In view of the urgency, leaders' continued ambition and resolve to accelerate efforts is key to success.