



## IUCN's key policy recommendations on climate change in 2015

2015 is a key year for global action on climate change with governments expected to reach a new international agreement to address this pressing challenge at the United Nations climate conference in Paris (UNFCCC COP 21) which takes place from 30 November to 11 December.

From IUCN's perspective, it is important that the 2015 Paris agreement:

- Be **ambitious, fair and balanced** – it should, at the very least, enable the rise in global average temperature to be held **below 2°C** above pre-industrial levels
- Be **comprehensive in its coverage of greenhouse gas (GHG) sources and sinks**, taking into account all major economic sectors, including the land sector
- Maintains the highest possible level of **environmental integrity**, preventing any double counting of emissions reductions
- Facilitates global efforts to **reduce dependence on fossil fuels, decarbonise energy systems**, and **expand the use of renewable and other low-carbon sources of energy** in a manner that improves human and ecosystem well-being
- Clearly recognises and supports the **substantial and effective role of healthy ecosystems** – terrestrial, marine and coastal – as **natural sinks and reservoirs of GHGs**
- Advances the important role that **ecosystem-based approaches** and **nature-based solutions** can play in both **climate change mitigation and adaptation**
- Respects **gender equality** and **human rights**, taking into account local, indigenous and traditional knowledge, and the needs of the most vulnerable communities
- Catalyses more ambitious action on climate change by **all actors across all sectors**, particularly from the business community
- Ensures that **climate finance** provisions enable the enhanced uptake of all ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures across all levels, noting the agreed overall international goal of mobilising US\$ 100 billion per year by 2020

With respect to the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) being prepared and communicated by countries ahead of Paris for the **post-2020 period**, it is important that these:

- Incorporate specific and ambitious **ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures**. Taking into account that **ambitious action is also needed in the pre-2020 period**, these could include, for example:
  - Joining international efforts to **combat forest loss and degradation** including those launched under the *New York Declaration on Forests* to **halve global natural forest loss by 2020**, and **end it by 2030**

- Contributing towards the **restoration of 150 million hectares of degraded landscapes and forestlands by 2020**, and **350 million hectares by 2030** through the extended *Bonn Challenge*, noting also the commitment made to achieve **land degradation neutrality** under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)
- **Expanding the existing coverage of terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas** consistent with *Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 15*
- Ensuring the **conservation of other natural ecosystems and carbon reservoirs such as oceans and wetlands (i.e. blue carbon)**, when not already included within existing mechanisms

IUCN's overall message is that while biodiversity and ecosystems are threatened by climate change, their **conservation, restoration and sustainable management** generate **significant and practical nature-based solutions to climate change**. These cost-effective solutions can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation objectives while also yielding other important economic, social and environmental co-benefits.

IUCN's full position paper on the UNFCCC negotiations in 2015 is available at: [http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eng\\_iucn\\_2015\\_position\\_paper\\_for\\_unfccc\\_final.pdf](http://cmsdata.iucn.org/downloads/eng_iucn_2015_position_paper_for_unfccc_final.pdf)