IUCN Nature-based Recovery Initiative

Overview - Political advocacy for nature-based post-COVID recovery
An opportunity for transformation
COVID has forced us all to re-think the status quo, creating an opportunity for fundamental changes.

“COVID recovery and our planet’s repair can be two sides of the same coin.” UN Secretary-General António Guterres

The case for nature
Investing in nature is an opportunity to build back better – greener, healthier, stronger and more sustainably.

The time is now
Governments are investing now, with urgency. For long-term success, nature must be part of the package.

An initiative for impact
A powerful network of influential State and civil society Members, thousands of experts & practitioners worldwide, IUCN is uniquely placed to advocate for a green recovery.

“COVID recovery and our planet’s repair can be two sides of the same coin.” UN Secretary-General António Guterres
An opportunity for transformation

The COVID-19 pandemic is forcing us all to re-think the status quo, opening the door for sustained investments in nature and nature-based solutions to be part of the recovery.
The case for nature
Investing in nature has immediate and long-term benefits

ECONOMIC RECOVERY AND STABILITY
- Jobs and economic gains
- Avoided losses
- Long-term stability

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND RESILIENCE
- Reduced vulnerability
- Improved health
- Increased food and water security

CLIMATE AND BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS
- Carbon sinks and stores
- Climate adaptation
- Healthy, recovering ecosystems

BUILD THE FOUNDATION FOR REACHING SDGs
- Ecosystem services
- Enhanced opportunities
- New connections and integration
7-40 jobs
Created per $1 million invested in nature-based solutions. Low-skill and fast-implementing jobs well-suited to stimulus packages

US$ 57 billion
Flooding damages averted by mangroves in China, India, Mexico, US and Viet Nam each year

Up to 37%
Of the climate change mitigation needed by 2030 to stabilize warming to below 2 °C can be reached through nature-based solutions

85 out of 169
SDG targets are related to the environment; nature underpins the delivery of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

Sources: WRI; Reguero et al. (2018); Griscom et al. (2017); UNEP
The time is now.

Countries are responding to the economic impacts of COVID-19 by allocating trillions of dollars to fiscal stimulus packages and beginning to develop longer-term economic recovery programs.

It is expected that much more will be further invested in post-COVID recovery packages over the next years.

INVEST IN NATURE

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Government & investors need:

KNOWLEDGE
What nature offers as part of the recovery, what are the returns and what options work best for my country.

ASSISTANCE
Creating, packaging and modelling investments in nature. Setting safeguards to ensure people and nature benefit.

ENCOURAGEMENT
In times of stress, governments can rely on “easy” status quo investments. Nature needs a seat at the table.
Ensure that post-COVID investments are effectively directed to nature-based recovery.
FIRST OBJECTIVE

That economic investment post-COVID does no (additional) harm to nature and livelihoods.

SECOND OBJECTIVE

That at least 10% of overall recovery investment is not only directed to nature but also provides value to nature.
NATURE-BASED RECOVERY INITIATIVE

Over the next year+, IUCN will focus on three interlinked and complementary areas to help governments invest in nature-based post-COVID recovery.

- Understanding nature-based solutions and recovery
  - Reinforcing the knowledge base
  - Setting indicators to measure impacts on nature

- Assessing financial investments (in recovery packages)
  - Defining investments - overall and in nature
  - Developing macro-economic modelling of measures

- Engaging with IUCN Members & partners in nature-based recovery
  - State and Government agencies; donors & partners
  - NGOs and Indigenous Peoples Organisations
IUCN’s ADVANTAGE

With State government Members as well as some of the most influential non-governmental organisations in every corner of the world, IUCN is in a unique and powerful position to motivate investment in a nature-based recovery.

Our influence comes from working directly with our Members and Commissions.

IUCN has expertise in a range of nature-based solutions and conservation investments, as well as regional and national level experts across the world to support and guide recovery investments in nature.
Projected timeline
IUCN Nature-based Recovery Initiative

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*Most dates TBC*
IUCN’s Nature-based Recovery Initiative

The Nature-based Recovery Initiative is part of IUCN’s Director General Bruno Oberle’s vision for enhancing IUCN’s role and impact in national and international policy.
THANK YOU

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