



## IUCN's key messages for UNFCCC COP22

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With the successful entry-into-force of the Paris Agreement, the 2016 Marrakech Climate Change Conference marks the beginning of a new era for achieving concerted global action on climate change. Now is the time to move rapidly towards implementation, while continuing to ensure that international, regional and national climate policy enables effective and early action.

With this in mind, IUCN would like to:

- Welcome the entry-into-force of the Paris Agreement
- Call upon those Parties that have not yet ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to the Paris Agreement to do so, as appropriate, on the earliest possible occasion
- Urge all Parties, especially major greenhouse gas emitters, to enhance their levels of both pre-2020 and post-2020 ambition and action in combatting climate change in light of the significant emissions gap that still needs to be bridged to successfully meet the objectives enshrined in the Paris Agreement
- Urge Parties to ensure the highest levels of environmental integrity while operationalizing the Paris Agreement, including the prevention of any double counting of emission reduction efforts
- Encourage Parties to reduce their dependence on fossil fuels, decarbonise energy systems, and expand the use of renewables and other low-carbon sources of energy in a manner that improves human and ecosystem wellbeing
- Remind Parties of the clear recognition within the Paris Agreement of the importance of:
  - Appropriately conserving and enhancing ecosystems of all types as effective sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases (Preamble, Article 5);
  - Taking ecosystems into account in adaptation action and planning (Article 7.2, 7.5, 7.9); and
  - Ensuring the integrity of all ecosystems, including oceans, and the protection of biodiversity, when taking action to address climate change (Preamble)
- Encourage Parties to continue to incorporate ambitious ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures within both their pre-2020 climate plans and actions, and their post-2020 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), including by considering the following options:
  - 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 Bonn Challenge and the New York Declaration on Forests, noting also the contribution to both mitigation and adaptation that can be made by achieving land degradation neutrality under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and efforts such as the 4 per 1000 Initiative

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- Expanding the existing coverage of effectively and equitably managed terrestrial, coastal and marine protected areas consistent with Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 15, noting also regional efforts such as the RedParques Declaration
- 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 central 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 no-regret solutions can contribute to both mitigation and adaptation objectives while also yielding other important economic, social and environmental co-benefits.

Furthermore, investing in nature-based solutions can enable Parties to contribute simultaneously to other internationally agreed policy frameworks, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, among others.

In addition, IUCN would like to:

- Welcome the decision of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2016 to prepare three new special reports, namely on: (i) the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels; (ii) climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems, and (iii) climate change and oceans and the cryosphere; and encourage Parties to take these, and other credible sources of knowledge, into account to inform the global stocktake specified under the Paris Agreement
- Encourage Parties to continue their work to design the enhanced transparency framework that will also inform the global stock take as well as domestic implementation of NDCs
- Call upon Parties to support the continuation of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, and the development of a multi-year comprehensive Gender Action Plan, recalling the acknowledgement within the Paris Agreement that Parties should respect, promote and consider, inter alia, gender equality and empowerment of women when taking action to address climate change
- Recall also the acknowledgement under the Paris Agreement that Parties should respect, promote and consider, inter alia, their respective obligations on human rights and the rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and people in vulnerable situations when taking action to address climate change, and also take indigenous, traditional and local knowledge systems into account
- Acknowledge and express support for the efforts of the two high-level champions appointed to act on behalf of the COP President in mobilising stronger and more ambitious global climate action, including by engaging with non-Party stakeholders
- Express appreciation for the work done by the UNFCCC secretariat in engaging with observer organisations and in fostering greater climate action, including through initiatives such as Momentum for Change
- Call for further scaling up of international climate finance flows, including to enable the enhanced uptake of ecosystem-based mitigation and adaptation measures across all levels
- Emphasise that effective action on climate change requires the participation of all actors across all sectors and all levels of society, particularly the business community
- Underscore the need for greater synergies among existing international agreements to ensure maximum policy coherence between efforts to achieve sustainable development, address climate change, reduce disaster risks, and protect threatened ecosystems and species.

Finally, IUCN would also like to draw attention to the outcomes of the [IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016](#), which prominently highlighted the role of healthy ecosystems in providing effective nature-based solutions to climate change, including through:

- A High-Level Dialogue on '[A Changing Climate: Championing Nature Based Solutions](#)';
- The [IUCN Climate Change Journey](#) which brought together nearly 100 climate-related events organised by various IUCN constituencies and partners;
- The [Resolutions and Recommendations](#) adopted by IUCN's 1300+ State and NGO Members that now constitute IUCN general policy; and
- The [Hawaii Commitments](#), which confirm that the contributions of the global conservation community are vital in addressing the global challenge of climate change.