THE WORLD MUST COME TOGETHER TO REVERSE NATURE LOSS AND SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY
IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, WE HAVE AN UNMISSABLE OPPORTUNITY TO CHART A NEW COURSE: WORLD LEADERS AND CITIZENS CAN DELIVER THE CHANGE REQUIRED TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE AND ALL LIFE ON EARTH, THROUGH A NEW DEAL FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE.

THE CHALLENGE

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET IS DANGEROUSLY UNBALANCED. WE ARE SEEING INCREASING EVIDENCE OF THIS IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES, FROM EXTREME WEATHER, FOREST FIRES AND FLOODS TO THE EMERGENCE OF NEW DISEASES. MUCH OF THE IMPACT IS, HOWEVER, MORE SUBTLE, BUT NO LESS DANGEROUS. ONE MILLION SPECIES ARE THREATENED WITH EXTINCTION AND WILDLIFE HAS SUFFERED A STAGGERING 60 PER CENT DECLINE IN JUST 40 YEARS.

THE OPPORTUNITY

IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, WE HAVE AN UNMISSABLE OPPORTUNITY TO CHART A NEW COURSE: WORLD LEADERS AND CITIZENS CAN DELIVER THE CHANGE REQUIRED TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE AND ALL LIFE ON EARTH, THROUGH A NEW DEAL FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE.
WHY WE NEED A NEW DEAL

IN THE FACE OF THE UNPRECEDENTED CRISIS OF NATURE LOSS, AS THE DOMINANT SPECIES ON THE PLANET WE HAVE THE MORAL RESPONSIBILITY TO PRESERVE THE DIVERSITY OF LIFE ON EARTH.

But nature conservation is not only a matter of morality – it is also vitally important to humanity’s development.

From the air that we breathe to the water we drink and the food we eat, nature provides the essentials we all rely on for our survival and well-being, including crucial emotional, health, economic, cultural and spiritual benefits.

We have already lost half of the forests and coral reefs, together with 80 per cent of wetlands, and dammed two-thirds of the world’s long rivers. The impacts are already being felt, especially by indigenous peoples and the world’s poorest and most vulnerable communities.

And unless we take greater action to protect and restore nature, all of us will face significant declines in the vital services that it provides to us every day, for free.

Warning after warning in a series of major intergovernmental scientific reports, (IPCC, IPBES and others) have shown a crisis of accelerating nature loss. The science has never been clearer on the impact of human activities on nature and the consequences we will be facing.

This alarming nature loss and climate change are two sides of today’s ecological crisis and challenge – and must be tackled together. However, while the climate emergency has led to concerted global action, the world’s response to nature loss has lagged behind.

The World Economic Forum estimates that half of the most likely and impactful global risks are linked to nature loss and climate change – ranging from ecosystem collapse to climate heating, extreme weather events and man-made environmental disasters. Biodiversity loss also ranks in the top 10 of risks.

This immense strain we are placing on the natural world threatens humanity in many ways, including increasing our vulnerability to pandemics and other health threats.

If managed well and sustainably, nature holds the key to our health and prosperity. Each year, around US$125 trillion worth of ecosystem services are provided to the global economy through drinkable water, water for industrial processes, food, fresh air, heat absorption, productive soil, and forests and oceans that soak up carbon. Addressing both climate change and nature loss is therefore a social and economic imperative.

We must now show the will to drive the change that is needed. Transformation of the world’s economic and financial systems is critical to reversing nature’s depletion and achieving the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. This is an immense challenge – but, together, we can do this. The solutions exist. Concerted efforts across the globe to take action are essential to protect human health and will lead to cleaner air, drinkable water, more energy and increased economic opportunities.

If we are to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis stronger, we must both recognize the fundamental link between nature and human health, and take urgent action to rebalance our relationship with the natural world, starting with securing a green and just economic recovery.

Global leaders have a momentous opportunity over the next 12 months to drive societies firmly towards a sustainable and equitable development path – unlocking the huge global benefits that the UN’s 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda offers.

In 2021, an agreement on a new global biodiversity framework and targets, countries’ contributions to the Paris climate agreement, a new treaty for the oceans and a renewed commitment to the environment under the Sustainable Development Goals will be negotiated.

We must act now to create an energized movement for nature and drive through a New Deal for Nature and People, as comprehensive, ambitious and science-based as the global climate deal agreed in Paris in 2015.

Together, we can set nature on the path to recovery by 2030 and transition to a nature-positive world that safeguards human health and livelihoods in both the short and long term.
NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030
HALT & START TO REVERSE THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY & PUT NATURE ON A PATH TO RECOVERY FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL PEOPLE & THE PLANET

THE PROBLEMS

MASSIVE DESTRUCTION OF NATURAL SPACES

CATASTROPHIC LOSS OF SPECIES & DIVERSITY OF LIFE

UNSUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION OF NATURE’S RESOURCES

THE GOALS

PROTECT & RESTORE NATURAL HABITATS

SAFEGUARD DIVERSITY OF LIFE

HALVE FOOTPRINT OF PRODUCTION & CONSUMPTION

THE SOLUTIONS

- PROTECT AT LEAST 30% AND SUSTAINABLY MANAGE THE REST
- WORK TO RESTORE NATURAL HABITATS
- RECOGNIZE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ LAND & WATER RIGHTS

- HALT HUMAN-INDUCED EXTINCTIONS
- RECOVER SPECIES POPULATIONS
- STOP UNSUSTAINABLE WILDLIFE EXPLOITATION & TRADE

- TRANSITION TO SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES E.G.: FOOD SYSTEMS & AGRICULTURE, FISHING, FORESTRY, INFRASTRUCTURE, EXTRACTIVES

THE BENEFITS

WATER FOR 9 BILLION

FOOD FOR 9 BILLION

DIVERSITY OF LIFE

STABLE CLIMATE

HUMAN HEALTH

Nature Positive by 2030: page 6
STABLE CLIMATE
Nature provides the sink for human-induced carbon emissions, capturing 60 per cent of these emissions per year. Natural climate solutions, which increase carbon storage in forests, grasslands, wetlands and agricultural lands, can deliver about a third of the global climate deal commitments.

Nature also plays a key role in climate adaptation and resilience – ecosystem-based adaptation harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability.

FOOD FOR NINE BILLION
A New Deal for Nature and People will help to tackle the largest single driver of environmental degradation: global food production on land and sea. A switch to sustainable agriculture and marine production, with an emphasis on healthy eating, will enable us to feed a growing global population (projected to be 9 billion by 2030) without destroying ever more forests and other ecosystems.

HUMAN HEALTH
Every one of us relies on a thriving natural world for our health and economic development. The long list of major benefits range from fresh water and air, to raw materials and waste treatment, to medicinal resources and recreation. By maintaining and restoring nature, not only do we ensure our continued quality of life, but we also help avert future global pandemics and ensure the health and well-being of the next generation.

FRESH WATER FOR ALL
The current global water crisis can be tackled by taking better care of our freshwater habitats – from restoring wetlands, to planting trees in water catchments, to reconnecting rivers with their floodplains – we will reduce the risks of flooding and water shortages, and improve human health. This will also help maintain the rich diversity of wildlife on our planet.

THE BENEFITS OF A NEW DEAL
Nature is the lifeline for the 7.6 billion people inhabiting Planet Earth, providing the food we eat, the water we drink and the air we breathe. It underpins our well-being, and that of our societies and economies, and is critical to achieving a majority of the Sustainable Development Goals.

EMPOWERING PEOPLE
Millions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) have a cultural identity of oneness with nature. Supporting actions of IPLC custodians to secure their rights and governance systems over ancestral lands, waters and territories will further empower them to sustain and restore indigenous and community conserved areas and the livelihoods that depend upon these conserved areas. It is thus one of the most effective ways to make rapid progress in reversing the loss of nature, expand on nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and adaptation, and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals.
HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT A NEW DEAL

MANY ARE ALREADY DEMONSTRATING THEIR COMMITMENT TO A NEW DEAL AND MORE CHAMPIONS ARE REQUIRED IMMEDIATELY FOR US TO SAFEGUARD THE FUTURE FOR PEOPLE AND OUR PLANET.
TOGETHER, WE CAN SECURE AN EQUITABLE, CARBON-NEUTRAL AND NATURE-POSITIVE WORLD