

NATURE IN ALL GOALS



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INTRODUCTION

Nature is essential to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides us with vital resources such as food, air, water, and energy. In addition, nature can be harnessed to create solutions to the challenges set out in the SDGs, solutions that are positive for social, economic, governance and environmental outcomes. For example, planting trees alongside livestock and crops contributes to climate change resilience because trees naturally capture and store carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. Trees also help to regulate soil and water quality in the face of extreme weather patterns.

Despite its many contributions, nature is being degraded at a rapid rate with alarming consequences. The latest global report on nature (IPBES-7) reveals that current trends will undermine progress towards 80 percent of reviewed SDG targets relating to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, oceans, and land.

Ultimately, the degradation and loss of nature affects all of us as it undermines our food systems, our economic systems and our well-being. However, the most severe effects will disproportionately impact specific groups in society, particularly people living in poverty.

These groups of people are less likely to be able to access support or replace the natural services and resources they have lost. At the same time, these communities are powerful agents of change in our efforts to build a sustainable future.

By working with nature, we can develop the most effective solutions for peaceful, prosperous and equitable societies.

This publication shows how **nature-based solutions can contribute to achieving all the Sustainable Development Goals** and deliver sustainable development for **everyone**. The following 17 case stories demonstrate the importance of maintaining the integrated framework of the SDGs in implementation and follow-up.

They also highlight some of the levers needed to catalyse nature-based solutions for the SDGs. These levers include mainstreaming nature into decision-making, building multi-stakeholder partnerships and strengthening good governance so that the agency, dignity and human rights of at-risk communities inform global action on the 17 goals.



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SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT COASTAL COMMUNITIES IN PAPUA NEW GUINEA AND THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

In the Pacific Island region, fisheries are a fundamental part of daily life. Coastal fisheries supply 50-90 percent of the dietary protein for coastal communities and are a major source of income and jobs for more than 45 percent of the people.

Overfishing is a key threat, driven by surging global demand for fish. If current trends continue, it is estimated that by 2030, the demand for fish in the Pacific region will completely outstrip supply, threatening local livelihoods.

For the past six years, communities in the Solomon Islands' Western Province and Papua New Guinea's Madang Province have been working with government representatives and WWF-Pacific to create a sustainable future for coastal fisheries and their livelihoods.

15 communities are currently engaged in Community Based Fisheries Management and are either implementing or working towards implementing Spawning Potential Surveys (SPS). These innovative surveys provide small scale-fisheries who have little access to data on fish stocks, quick assessments of the status of fish egg levels. They use this data to review the effectiveness of community management actions to manage fisheries [14](#) [12](#).

In addition to implementing sustainable fisheries management practices, community members are creating complementary income sources. In Western Province, for example, more than 1,000 women across 33 communities have established women's microfinance savings clubs [5](#) and participated in business development and financial literacy training. As a result, they have launched over 145 women-led micro-businesses all underpinned by strong business, social and environmental sustainability criteria [8](#) [5](#). One community has reported 11 different income sources, an increase from two income sources in 2013 [1](#).



© Oscar Rodas

RESTORING AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS OF RURAL COMMUNITIES IN THE ATLANTIC FOREST, PARAGUAY

Crossing Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina, the Atlantic Forest ecoregion is home to 148 million people and thousands of plant and animal species that have supported communities for more than 11,000 years.

In Paraguay, forests in the ecoregion are being cut down to make way for large-scale agricultural activity such as soy plantations. The Atlantic Forest is also being weakened by extreme weather events caused by climate change.

With increased pressure on the environment, many family and small scale farmers resort to renting and selling their land in order to survive. Others do not have land title deeds and are left without food, homes, and incomes. In search of opportunity, people have been migrating to urban areas, leaving behind their ancestral homes.

In recent years, a native tree has been helping five rural communities in the Ñacunday, Tavapy, and Raul Pena districts turn over a new leaf. Since 2017, farmers have been planting Yerba Mate with other native trees to improve the resilience of the forests. This farming technique protects the land from erosion while improving land and soil quality.

Working with the Rural Women's Association and WWF-Paraguay, they have also participated in training on sustainable farming practices [15](#) [13](#) and have been able to improve their family diets by increasing the variety of crops they plant in their gardens [2](#).

As a result, local farmers have leveraged the highly nutritious value of Yerba Mate to create a new product, Mate Superfood [8](#). They have already attracted an offer from a European company to sell Mate Superfood, and two rural associations have set up formal co-operatives to sell the product locally [12](#).



INTRODUCING RENEWABLE ENERGY SOLUTIONS FOR BETTER HEALTH AND ENERGY SECURITY IN KARACHI, PAKISTAN

For many communities in Karachi, the largest cosmopolitan city in Pakistan, firewood sourced from mangroves is the most accessible and affordable source of domestic fuel. However, it is unsustainable and gravely affects human and environmental health.

Firewood drives deforestation and emits greenhouse gases in the atmosphere when burned. Burning firewood indoors causes chronic respiratory diseases, eyesight illnesses, as well as burn injuries, especially among women and children. Globally, indoor air pollution from unsustainable cookstoves and fuels kills 3.8 million people every year.

In 2016, three coastal communities partnered with Karachi Metropolitan Corporation, WWF-Pakistan and the electricity supply company, K-Electric, to transition their communities to clean and renewable energy.

In just over two years, 2,054 households installed solar energy systems and fuel-efficient stoves. In addition, 42 households now have access to clean energy through 12 new communal biogas systems. Biogas is a clean, odourless fuel that uses cattle manure and toilet waste to produce methane gas. [7](#)



© WWF-Pakistan

The switch to clean and renewable energy has improved the quality of life for residents, with children and women reporting more time available at night to study and work on additional income generating activities [1](#) [4](#) [5](#). Over 50 residents, mainly women, have started new livelihood activities associated with the maintenance of biogas energy systems [5](#) [8](#).

A resident in Gadap Town has noted that community members using fuel-efficient stoves have seen an improvement in chronic diseases associated with burning firewood such as eyesight illnesses, skin rashes, and coughs [3](#).

The biogas plants have also helped to reduce firewood use and marine pollution. Since the biogas plants have been installed, there has been an 80 percent reduction in the use of mangrove firewood at the household level [15](#). Previously, manure was disposed of in the Arabian Sea but is now processed for use in the biogas plants [3](#) [6](#) [11](#) [14](#).



GENERATION EARTH

In today's world, education is about creating opportunities for people at every life stage to step up and act for sustainable development.

The Generation Earth programme prepares young leaders with the necessary skills, opportunities, and peer mentoring to implement youth-led actions and campaigns on environmental and social issues. As part of the Action Leader Training, participants co-create workshops with WWF-Austria experts on numerous topics including leadership, climate change and responsible consumption and production [4](#) [12](#) [13](#). Over the nine-month programme, the young leaders design and implement projects to motivate their peers to become politically active on environmental issues.

Since the initiative started in 2010, several hundred young adults have taken part in the programme. As a result, they have reached hundreds of thousands of people using multiple media channels and launched approximately 100 projects to increase public action on the environment. For example, in 2018, three Generation Earth members worked together to get more young people involved in an EU policy consultation on sustainable river management. Franziska, Magdalena and Leo organised a series of actions as part of the WWF *#ProtectWater* public campaign, which included a public dance flashmob in Vienna involving 100 young artists and activists, short films, and an online petition. In total, the Generation Earth team collected over 1,000 signatures and contributed to the third largest public consultation in Europe with over 300,000 participants [6](#).

Since completing the training, over 75 percent of the participants state that they are living a sustainable lifestyle and are practicing sustainable behaviours on a daily basis [4](#) [12](#). Furthermore, almost 90 percent feel personally responsible for protecting the environment.



PROMOTING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN COMMUNITY-BASED NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN NEPAL

In Nepal, communities in the Chitwan-Annapurna and Terai Arc landscapes are working together to sustainably manage natural resources, adapt to the impacts of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Community management groups, also known as Community Forestry User Groups, are the main mechanisms which they use to make collective decisions relating to forest conservation and climate change adaptation. Men and women are affected by climate change in different ways because of their gender roles and social status. Including women in leadership positions in the User Groups, helps communities identify these differences and design appropriate and effective responses.

In partnership with local communities across 20 districts, the Hariyo Ban programme supported the launch of Community Learning and Action Centres. The centres provide fora where women and minority groups can organise and mobilise around local issues relating to natural resources management and climate change adaptation [13](#). They participate in tailored training to strengthen their leadership skills and knowledge of forest conservation so they can take on more active roles in the User Groups [10](#) [15](#). In addition, the centres are a meeting place to engage men and decision-makers on how to promote the leadership and inclusion of women and minority groups.

During the first phase of the programme (2012 to 2016), the number of women in executive positions in Community Forestry User Groups increased by 4.5 percent to 48 percent (4,875 women) across the 20 districts. Their leadership has helped to ensure the equitable sharing of revenues from forest products and that women's use of forest resources are factored in planning and decision-making processes [10](#) [16](#).



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LIVING EUROPEAN RIVERS INITIATIVE

Freshwater ecosystems provide us with water to drink, to grow and cook our food, and to use in industry. These ecosystems are also our allies in tackling the effects of climate change. For example, wetlands have a natural capacity to store large amounts of water and release it slowly which helps us regulate water quantity during periods of drought and flooding [13](#). This is an essential function as extreme and unpredictable weather patterns increase with global warming.

As a result of water mismanagement, densely populated areas, unsustainable agricultural practices and infrastructure investments, freshwater ecosystems across Europe face multiple risks including pollution and water sources being used up more rapidly than they are able to renew. Between 1960 and 2010, there has been a 24 percent decrease in renewable water resources per person in Europe.

The Living European Rivers initiative aims to transform water management across Europe with the goal of protecting the last free-flowing rivers in Europe and restoring degraded rivers at scale [6](#). The initiative galvanises local partnerships [17](#) to build a public movement for healthy river systems, strengthen implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive, and shift financial investments towards solutions that incorporate the sustainable management of rivers [15](#).

In Bulgaria, for example, many dams and other man-made barriers severely restrict the natural movement of fish because of inadequate fish passes. To address this, a pioneering project along the Rusenski and Cherni Lom river has removed two barriers and constructed a new fish pass, thereby strengthening fish populations [6](#). Working with the Coca-Cola system and the International Commission for the Protection of the Danube River (ICPDR), the partly EU funded project has also re-stocked local fish species along another site in Bulgaria.



MAASAI LION LIGHTS: KEEPING THE PEACE

With more than 70 percent of wildlife in Kenya living outside protected areas, many communities often find themselves facing risks from predators at night. This is the time when people's livestock, their main source of livelihood, is at risk from predation by lions, leopards, hyenas, cheetahs and jackals.

Across the country, it is estimated that 5-15 heads of cattle per household are lost to predators every year, which amounts to a loss of USD 500 – 7,500. The impacts have previously led to retaliatory attacks against wildlife.

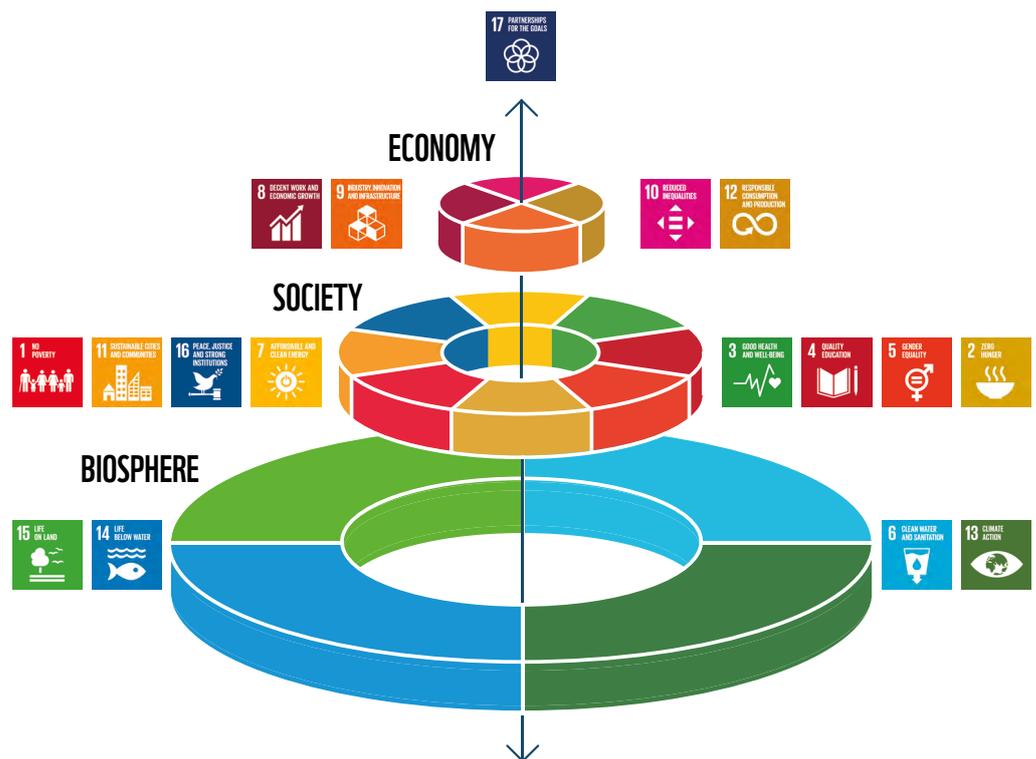
Since 2014, Maasai communities have harnessed the power of solar energy to reduce human-wildlife conflict in the Kajiado and Narok counties. Working with The Wildlife Foundation, Kenya Wildlife Service, the county government, and WWF-Kenya, Maasai communities have installed solar-powered Predator Deterrent Lights in livestock enclosures. Popularly known as Lion Lights, the flashing LED lights deter predators by mimicking the movement of people and obstructing the predators' night vision.



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The solar energy installations have delivered notable results for the communities involved. Predation in livestock enclosures with Lion Lights has reduced by 100 percent **1** **15**. A community member, Mzee Ntete, reflects, *“Since the installation of the lights on my boma (livestock enclosure), we have never had predation attack. I used to guard my boma the whole night but nowadays I sleep well.”*

In addition to the Lion Lights, solar systems have also been installed in 177 homes so community members can light their homes and charge mobile phones **9**. Solar systems are a healthier energy source than paraffin lamps which irritate eyes and cause respiratory infections **3**. School children have reported having more time to study using the solar lights. One community member has reported saving money from installing the lights and has used the savings to *“buy books for children, besides saving some for the future.”* **1** **4**



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MOVING BEYOND GDP TO A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the most widely used measure of progress in an economy, and is the main policy objective for governments across the world. However, GDP places an unhealthy focus on short-term income generation at the expense of longer-term prosperity and a healthy environment. It also fails to capture the social and economic benefits from nature ¹⁴¹⁵, resulting in decisions that undermine the environment. As our natural systems are pushed to dangerous tipping points, it is time to rethink the metrics we use to measure progress.

WWF is championing approaches to measure economic progress that go ‘Beyond GDP’ ¹⁷. New Zealand’s Living Standards Framework is a good example because it looks at the social, environmental and economic dimensions of well-being to track country progress and inform the national budget (2019 Well-being Budget). WWF-Wales has been championing a similar approach in Wales as part of the country’s implementation of the innovative Future Generations Act.

How countries choose to develop their economies has profound consequences for our future and time is running out – even faster than recently thought. The recent IPCC report on climate change shows we have 12 years to shift our economy away from fossil fuels ⁷, and WWF Living Planet Report highlights the rapid decline in wildlife and biodiversity with major implications for humanity ¹⁴¹⁵.

We need to make sustainable use of natural resources a top economic priority and transform our economies to deliver prosperity for all people within the boundaries of our planet. This requires new economic metrics and new economic models.



TRANSFORMING INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH THE SUSTAINABLE BLUE ECONOMY FINANCE PRINCIPLES



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The ocean economy has enormous value. It is estimated to be worth USD 24 trillion in total assets, and releasing benefits of up to USD 2.5 trillion annually. However, over-exploitation, pollution and climate change have severely degraded ocean ecosystems. In just three decades, we have lost over half of our coral reefs and mangroves which provide food, livelihoods and protection to hundreds of millions of people.

Over the next decade, unprecedented marine and coastal development is expected, particularly in coastal infrastructure like ports and harbours. A fundamental shift is needed to ensure these investments pay equal attention to promoting the well-being of people, the health of our oceans, and the sustainability of our global economy.

The financial sector plays a substantial role in shaping the types of investments and infrastructure development. This is why, in partnership with the European Commission, European Investment Bank and World Resources Institute, WWF have launched a set of Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Principles to provide a pioneering guiding framework for all finance sectors. The Sustainable Blue Economy approach aims to:

- Provide social **1****2** and economic **8** benefits for current and future generations;
- Restore, protect and maintain diverse, productive and resilient marine ecosystems**14**;
- Adopt clean technologies, renewable energy **7** and circular material flows.

The 14 principles complement existing frameworks in sustainable finance and recognise the importance of compliance, transparency, disclosure, and good governance within the unique investment context of the ocean **14**.

Since the launch at the Economist Group's World Ocean Summit in Bali in October 2018, the World Bank and UN Environment's Principles for Sustainable Insurance, amongst others, have become global signatories. Over the next year, the principles will underpin a new UN Environment Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative. They will also guide the Asian Development Bank's new commitment to expand financing and technical assistance for ocean health and Sustainable Blue Economy over the next five years, towards delivering their Action Plan for Healthy Oceans and Sustainable Blue Economies.



ENSURING THE POLITICAL INCLUSION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON



© Diana Álvarez OPIAC

Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon region in Colombia are the legal custodians of nearly 26 million hectares, of which 94 percent are forests. Their territories are “living barriers” against deforestation, and their forests provide crucial natural services such as storing carbon [13](#), conserving biodiversity [15](#) and water supply [6](#).

The government’s current strategy to protect the Amazon rainforest is to reduce deforestation and to offer sustainable alternatives to communities. However, there is little recognition and support for the existing conservation work of indigenous communities and their efforts to address the drivers of nature loss in the region.

OPIAC, a leading indigenous organisation in the Amazon, has partnered with WWF-Colombia to strengthen the formal inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in the decision-making and management of the Amazon rainforest [16](#).

In 2018, OPIAC undertook a groundbreaking study on the role and contribution of indigenous territories in the Amazon region. The study assesses the health of ecosystems in indigenous territories and the services these territories provide at local, regional, and global levels. The study also details the ancestral practices and knowledge that indigenous communities have cultivated to conserve their territories, as well as the emerging pressures their communities face.

Using the preliminary findings of the study, OPIAC collaborated with four indigenous organisations, to refine and negotiate recommendations to the Colombian government on the 2018-2022 National Development Plan. Some of the recommendations have been taken up in the National Development Plan, including a set of climate adaptation and mitigation actions that will ensure equality of outcomes for indigenous people [10](#) [13](#) [16](#).

OPIAC and WWF are currently developing a strategy to support indigenous organisations to monitor the implementation and follow-up of the National Development Plan [17](#).



© Paul Neudorf

RESTORING URBAN BIODIVERSITY IN MONTRÉAL, CANADA

In Montréal, biodiversity plays an important role in this thriving city. Biodiversity is the variety of living species, such as animals, plants and fungi. It is this variety of life that allows nature to function effectively, providing us with essential resources and services we use in our daily lives. In Montréal, these services are valued at USD 2.2 billion per year.

Between 1966 and 2011, the urban area of Montréal doubled. Local and provincial governments were concerned by the impact of this growth and the effects of biodiversity loss on the city's prosperity and resilience.

To address this issue, the Biopolis platform was launched in 2016, to bring together citizens, academia, NGOs, businesses and decision-makers to protect urban biodiversity in Montréal. In recent years, Biopolis has hosted multiple public events to raise awareness of the value of biodiversity in the city. These events have included urban walks and timed events to document natural species in different areas¹¹.

The platform also promotes research and best practice on the sustainable management of biodiversity¹⁵. An example of a best practice initiative is the green roof garden⁹ built by local citizens in the Santropol Roulant community hub. In the roof garden, they have cultivated an interconnected network of natural ecosystems including a large garden, beehives and a greenhouse. Some of the produce grown in the garden is delivered to local people who are unable to grow food or cook for themselves¹². Food waste is turned into compost by worms and the compost is used to cultivate the garden for planting¹².

Members of the Biopolis platform have noted its immense value in helping them mobilise new volunteers for their projects and access experts. Following the successful implementation in Montréal, the platform will be scaled to all cities in Canada.



FISH FORWARD 2



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The global demand for fish has increased at an unprecedented rate. On average, global fish consumption per person has doubled since the 1960s and at the same time, the number of overfished stocks has tripled.

Recent reports have highlighted the challenges in safeguarding, labour and human rights in the seafood sector. Declining fishing stocks mean many fishers have to work harder and often in illegal conditions to earn a living. The social and environmental impacts of overfishing have not been adequately measured, partly because actions to tackle these issues are not joined up across the entire seafood supply chain.

In January 2018, WWF partnered with Environmental Justice Foundation to transform seafood consumption and production by facilitating coherent action across multiple sectors in 17 countries [17](#).

The Fish Forward 2 initiative aims to improve understanding among consumers, retailers, producers and decision-makers about the true cost of seafood production and the long-term value of investing in ethical and sustainable seafood supply chains.

To date, the initiative has reached over 30 million consumers in the world's largest seafood market, Europe, through targeted campaigns on the impacts of overfishing in fisheries communities [12](#) [14](#).

Through the initiative, corporates are pushing for greater traceability and transparency in the fisheries sector. Four companies have already committed to improve their seafood portfolio and 48 companies have participated in activities to build their capacity on climate action [13](#) and ethical issues in the seafood supply chain [9](#).

Fish Forward 2 also partners with fishing communities to bring their voices into policy discussions and share good practice on sustainable seafood production. So far, this has included consultations with fishers to advise Fishery Improvement Plans in India, the creation of the Women Fishers Association in Turkey and the first ever workshops on climate change and fisheries in Ecuador. In addition, communities in South Africa have proposed recommendations on how to improve seafood sustainability assessments [12](#).



SUPPORTING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN ISABELA, PHILIPPINES

Isabela province is the Philippines' largest corn producer, contributing an average of 21 percent to the country's annual corn production. A critical source of food security for the country, the province is also a major producer of other staple crops which are used for livestock feed and industrial uses as well as for food.

Climate change is a major threat to the province, in particular, the small scale farming communities living near the Abuan watershed which forms part of an important protected area. Rising temperatures, unpredictable rainfall, and extreme weather events such as typhoons and droughts, significantly affect agricultural production. As a result, farmers struggle to plan their farming schedules, to ensure consistent quality yield and to protect their homes.

In 2012, USAID, Sun Life Foundation, Local Government Units and WWF-Philippines came together to support local communities in their efforts to manage and adapt to the unpredictable effects of climate change. Communities



© WWF-Philippines Gregg Yan

co-created integrated solutions related to Disaster Risk Mitigation and Management [13](#)[15](#) planning and the sustainable management of the Abuan watershed [6](#).

Farmers played a critical role in this process by planting trees alongside crops and livestock. The trees improve soil and water quality, thereby contributing to the resilience of local communities against floods and drought events.

In the space of five years, 189 farmers planted 34,000 fruit tree seedlings in four neighbourhoods [2](#) [13](#). In addition to restoring the soil and water quality of the watershed, the farmers have supplemented their livelihoods by selling fruit from the trees planted [8](#).

They have also adopted new farming techniques to strengthen the resilience of their livelihoods. Over 2,000 farmers participated in sustainable corn production training and 1,200 farmers enrolled in a text-based weather information system to guide their planting schedules.



CORAL REEF RESCUE INITIATIVE

Coral reefs are one of the most important ecosystems in the ocean. They provide food [1](#) [2](#), livelihoods [3](#) and multiple services such as protection from storms, [15](#) to hundreds of millions of people. They also support one in four species in the ocean.

We are seeing the most rapid decrease in coral cover ever recorded. Half the world's shallow water coral reefs have already been lost, and those that remain are under immense pressure. Even if the average global temperature rise is limited to 1.5°C, 70 to 90 percent of tropical coral reefs will likely be gone in the decades ahead. This dramatic decrease is caused by a number of factors, primarily climate change, as well as pollution, overfishing, and unsustainable coastal development.

A recent global analysis has revealed that some reefs are relatively less vulnerable to climate change impacts than others. Close to 70 percent of the most resilient coral reefs are found in just seven countries: Indonesia, Philippines, Cuba, Fiji, Tanzania, Solomon Islands and Madagascar. By identifying and protecting these coral reefs, the larvae they produce can benefit nearby reefs, improving their health too [13](#).

The Coral Reef Rescue Initiative will join forces with major partners and mobilise resources [17](#) in order to protect the most climate-resilient coral reefs while supporting broader efforts to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions.

An important element of this initiative is the leadership, ownership and expertise of local communities who play an integral role in the sustainable management of oceans [16](#). Working with experienced partners and local people in these countries, the Initiative will support communities on the frontline to safeguard their reefs and livelihoods today – and begin recovering the coral reefs of tomorrow.

15 LIFE ON LAND



SUPPORTING TERRITORIES AND AREAS CONSERVED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN MYANMAR



© WWF-Myanmar

Indigenous People, who make up five percent of the world's population, contribute significantly to global efforts to protect nature. The latest global assessment on nature (IPBES-7) reports that nature loss is declining less rapidly in areas managed by indigenous peoples due to their expertise, methods and community-led approaches to managing their territories.

Indigenous People are particularly affected by nature loss and climate change. Insecure rights to their lands, territories and resources threatens their culture, their well-being, and their ability to continue preserving their territories¹⁰.

In Myanmar, indigenous and ethnic civil society organisations have been working for legal and political recognition of their territories. Also known as 'Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' (ICCAs), these are formally recognised territories which are governed by indigenous and local communities and contribute to their well-being and the sustainable management of nature.

WWF has been facilitating learning activities about ICCAs among civil society organisations, communities, government and other authorities. This has included a study tour with indigenous and ethnic organisations from Myanmar to learn about a well-functioning ICCA in Philippines. During the study tour, participants formed a working group to coordinate and mobilise efforts towards ICCA recognition in Myanmar.

For the working group, recognition of ICCAs would mean that indigenous people and ethnic minorities are legitimately involved in decisions affecting their territories¹⁰ and they have secure access and property rights for the long-term¹¹. It will also ensure their contributions to national conservation goals are counted¹⁵.

In December 2018, after many consultations with the government, an agreement was reached to include ICCAs in the draft Conservation of Biodiversity and Protected Area (CBPA) by-law^{10 16}. The proposal is awaiting approval from government and parliament.



TRACKING SDGS PROGRESS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO WITH A COMMUNITY-BASED MONITORING TOOL



© WWF-DRC

Nature loss and climate change disproportionately affect specific groups, including women, youth, rural communities, indigenous peoples, coastal communities, and people living with disabilities.

It is important that governance mechanisms enable communities to identify and communicate priorities that matter to them, to have access to data, and formal opportunities to monitor and follow-up on decisions made. Equally important is the quality of data and how accurately it captures progress according to different groups.

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, local communities from the Mai-Ndombe, Tshuapa and Équateur provinces have co-created a participatory tool for communities to monitor SDGs progress in their villages [16](#).

The tool formulates local indicators for the 169 SDG targets. Community representatives then select the most relevant

indicators to monitor progress on. Community members assess progress using the selected indicators and the assessments are summed up to give a total percentage in five categories of capital - natural, social, infrastructure, governance and human. Working in partnership with local authorities, the Ministry of Rural Development and WWF-DRC, the data is assessed and informs policy development at provincial and national levels [10](#).

Although at the early stages of implementation, the tool has already proved to be an effective resource. In 2018, 20 villages in the Mai-Ndombe province used the SDGs monitoring tool to identify and assess community benefits in relation to a Payment for Ecosystem Services project [116](#).

In June 2018, the national government adopted the tool as an official monitoring mechanism for local SDGs implementation. The Ministry of Rural Development has created an internal department to scale the tool across the country.



CLIMATE CROWD INITIATIVE

Rural communities in developing countries are experiencing some of the worst impacts of climate change. Data on these climate impacts is often lacking and incomplete, and there is often not the support to help rural communities adapt.

In 2014, WWF launched a crowdsourcing initiative, Climate Crowd, to convene partners and pool their geographic reach, expertise and financial resources to strengthen the resilience of rural communities on the frontlines of climate change.

Through an online platform, local partners access training and guidance to collect data with rural communities. WWF then work with partners to design, fund, and implement community-centred solutions that address climate risks affecting rural communities.

The solutions draw on the strength of nature as a buffer against climate change. They include approaches that boost the health of the natural environment and low-cost innovations that help minimise negative impacts on biodiversity.



© John Whiting WWF Climate Crowd

In Idunda village, Tanzania, for example, a local volunteer teamed up with teachers, students, and families to gather data, and used the findings to build a rainwater harvesting system in the local primary school. Using a grant from the Climate Crowd, the system diverts water runoff from the school building roof to a water storage tank [1](#)[5](#). Through this system, the community ensure consistent water supply in their village amidst increasingly unpredictable rainfall patterns [6](#). The stored water is also piped to a hand washing station in the school so students can conveniently wash their hands [3](#).

Currently, the Climate Crowd Initiative convenes members and gathers data from over 30 countries. To date, nine on-the-ground adaptation solutions have been designed and implemented with plans to reach more communities.

To find out how WWF is supporting the integrated and inclusive implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, please visit:
wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/sustainable_development_goals

or contact Marion Osieyo at SDG Hub, Governance Practice:
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