



HLPF 2019: WWF INPUT TO THE SHAPING OF THE POLITICAL DECLARATION & SDG SUMMIT

17 May 2019

Main political messages for the Summit in order to accelerate implementation, including for the mobilization of means of implementation and promotion of partnerships

At the end of the first cycle for implementation of the 2030 Agenda, progress has been made on several SDGs, however emerging evidence indicates that we need to dramatically accelerate action to meet all the goals by 2030. A critical gap remains in achievement towards environmental targets: the world is not on track to achieve the environmental dimension of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to accelerate implementation of the SDGs we must urgently address the environmental crisis facing us: the interlinked emergencies of climate change and loss of nature. These impede our ability to address not just the environment-related SDGs but also jeopardise progress on poverty, hunger, health, education, inequality and achievement of the SDGs overall. Our natural environment provides the foundation for the SDGs: by ensuring a clean and healthy environment to rely on, the livelihoods, wellbeing and safety of billions can be secured.

WWF proposes the following text for the political declaration:

Addressing nature loss as an integral part of the SDGs

1. We are deeply alarmed by the rapid and severe nature and biodiversity loss that is putting at risk human health and wellbeing as well as the ecosystems services we depend on and risk to reverse decades of progress in term of development and fight against poverty and hunger. If we continue with business as usual, biodiversity loss will rapidly become an existential issue for humanity. In line with the best science available (see IPBES¹ Summary for Policy Makers), we are committed to take urgent, ambitious and transformative action to protect and restore the web of life that supports humanity: by 2030, 50% of land and sea protected, restored, or sustainable managed; 50% production and consumption is sustainable; and prevent the 6th mass extinction. We are fully committed to a bold, ambitious, effective, fair, transformative and well-funded post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, with strong, effective and transparent implementation and accountability mechanisms, to be adopted in 2020 at the Convention on Biological Diversity Conference of Parties in Kunming, China. We commit to support the President of the General Assembly in organizing an impactful Heads of State Nature Summit in 2020 that convenes Member States and key non-state actors, to showcase action, to bring solutions towards achieving

¹ The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) is the intergovernmental body which assesses the state of biodiversity and of the ecosystem services it provides to society.

the ambitious goals set under Agenda 2030 and the Paris Agreement and to accelerate global action to halt nature loss and restore nature by 2030.

Integrating action on climate change nature loss and sustainable development

2. Recognizing that climate change, nature loss and sustainable development are different facets of the same challenge, we call for all relevant conventions to come together to enhance coherence, alignment, cooperation and collective impact in order to address the climate and nature crises we are facing. Political commitment and action will be placed to ensure continuity and updating of the biodiversity related SDG targets with an end date of 2020, to reflect integrity and ambitions to address current crisis without re-opening of the SDG framework.

Integrated SDG implementation at national and local levels

3. We commit to developing the enabling conditions and strengthen the mechanisms at the national and local levels for inclusive, coherent and integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda as a whole to ensure positive impact for nature and people. Without integrated, coherent and inclusive implementation, through an inclusive partnership approach, the integrity of the 2030 Agenda is compromised.

WWF's Key expectations for the Summit and on how can stakeholders best contribute

That member states commit to the following, acknowledging the urgency with the current interlinked climate and nature crises, while recognising sustainable development as a pathway out of them:

1. **Reinvigorate high level political commitment to the 2030 Agenda** with a strong commitment to maintain the integrity of an interlinked and indivisible 2030 Agenda with strong environmental, social and economic dimensions and **strengthen commitments and scale up actions to achieve all goals and targets by 2030.**
2. **Ensure that no one is left behind**, including by making sure that SDGs implementation and monitoring mechanisms at country level are representative, inclusive and transparent, and make every effort to tailor participation of all sectors and stakeholders, including the important role of IPLCs.
3. **Recognizing** that achieving the necessary systemic and transformational changes for people and planet will not be possible without the enabling conditions for civil society to fully engage and for inclusive participation in SDG implementation.
4. **Continuity of environmental targets.** Twenty-three targets have an end date of 2020 or 2025, of which twelve are biodiversity related targets, as they are sourced from the Aichi Targets under the current (2010-2020) CBD 10-year Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. The HLPF has a responsibility to ensure that there is a clear way forward to ensure the continuity of these targets.
5. **Ensure an integrated approach to climate, nature and sustainable development, to accelerate progress on achieving global goals, by:**
 - a. As stated in the 2030 Agenda underline that human well-being, food security and poverty eradication cannot be achieved without restoring nature and tackling climate change, and that nature stewardship and sustainable development reinforce one another in the long term.
 - b. Recognise the need to raise global ambition and accelerate coordinated action, to restore nature in order to achieve the SDGs. This requires nature to be a top priority

for heads of state and multiple ministries, including finance, development and planning ministries.

- c. Recognise the multiple benefits of nature-based solutions for climate, community livelihoods, health and wellbeing as well as for biodiversity.

The most important areas of progress and main gaps and challenges since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda

- More efforts required to establish sustainable development governance mechanisms that include transparent, representative and participatory, multi sectoral and multi stakeholder implementation and monitoring at country level.
- Avoid cherry-picking of individual sustainable development goals for implementation. Governments must address the challenge of an indivisible and integrated set of goals, only in tackling them together can transformative outcomes be achieved.
- Facilitating integrated implementation of SDGs through adequate investment and governance reforms to ensure policy coherence across government at multiple levels.
- Lacking of progress on almost all environmental goals and targets, nature must be elevated on the highest political agenda to be a head of state/government and cross-sectoral priority, while action and investments must be massively scaled up to reverse biodiversity loss.
- Scaling up financing the SDGs – Financing the goals in an equitable manner and raising the trillions required, including re-directing environmentally harmful subsidies and investments towards addressing climate change, nature decline and sustainable development.
- Innovative, just and new transformative business and economic models that are pro-SDGs and pro-nature are needed with transfer of technology and sustainable financing to SIDS and developing countries.

WWF best practices of working with the SDGs that can serve as inspiration to others ahead of the Summit

Strengthening local and regional implementation

- WWF India is working with the state of Uttar Pradesh to develop and implement a road map for integration of SDGs at the district level.
- WWF Colombia is working with Afro-Colombian communities (Chocó department) to support them to incorporate SDGs monitoring in their planning.
- WWF Kenya plays a leading role in the SDG Kenya Forum – a multi-stakeholder forum for SDGs implementation in Kenya. In addition, they are working with four (sub-national) counties to integrate SDGs monitoring into county plans and have delivered awareness raising workshops on SDGs to local and indigenous communities.
- WWF European Policy Office is a member of the Multistakeholder Platform for SDG implementation in the EU. A number of recommendations and policy papers for EU decision makers have been produced including on budgeting, policy coherence, governance, rule of law and better regulation.
- WWF Switzerland works with universities, that act as “living lab” and host multi-stakeholder collaboration, in order to find concrete and effective solutions for the implementation of SDGs at local and regional level.

- WWF-Pacific working with Pacific Island Small States towards supporting the integrated implementation of the SDGs and commitments in other Multilateral Environmental Agreements.

Facilitating multi-stakeholder partnerships for SDGs implementation

- WWF DRC, in partnership with the DRC Ministry of Rural Development, have developed and scaled a monitoring tool for communities and indigenous peoples to monitor progress on SDGs.
- WWF UK helped set up a national multi-stakeholder group, UKSSD (Stakeholders for Sustainable Development). Currently, UKSSD has over 100 partners and a list of over 1000 “friends”. In 2018, UKSSD compiled the first UK review on SDGs progress, [‘Measuring Up.’](#)

Enhancing knowledge sharing for SDGs implementation

- WWF runs an internal global community of practice (SDG Hub) that aims to accelerate national SDG implementation through knowledge exchange and collective action on SDGs.
- Through the network, featuring 140 members from 51 countries, the Hub supports WWF colleagues through:
 - Capacity building: strengthen practice through group learning activities (webinars), peer exchange and developing knowledge tools.
 - Networking: create online spaces and opportunities for members to share new approaches and insights.
 - Information-sharing: facilitate sharing of latest opportunities, and good practice on SDGs implementation.

Reflecting the principles of ‘leaving no one behind’ and ‘reaching the furthest away first’ in the Summit

- Adequate space, and UN funding should be given to representatives of Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Defenders that are at the forefront of the fight for sustainable development and to protect Nature.
- In the Declaration, include commitment to any international agreements and conventions supporting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Environmental Defenders.
- Provide targeted funding, capacity building for youth-led organisations and networks to be part of planning and decision making of the Summit.
- Speeches, declaration and outcomes systematically recognise that a completely new relation with nature is required based on long term sustainable management.
- Increase awareness by Heads of State of the brave efforts of many communities and indigenous peoples to protect the environment from rapid and massive loss in the right places for guaranteeing the future of communities and livelihoods.

WWF has produced briefings on each SDG under review to support discussions at HLPF 2019, which can be found, along with other information on WWF's work to support the SDGs, at: https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/sustainable_development_goals/. For further enquiries please contact Claire Blanchard cblanchard@wwfint.org who will be attending the HLPF.