



Press Release Nov 16, 2020

Turning G20 Stimulus Packages into Game Changers for Climate and Biodiversity

New study stresses the pivotal role of 'Nature-based Solutions' in addressing the crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and global pandemics

November 16th, 2020: In the run-up to the G20 summit in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi-Arabia, on November 21/22, a new report prepared by an expert from the World Resource Institute (WRI) and co-authors from other centres of expertise calls for Nature-based Solutions to play a pivotal role in responding to three of the highest risks to humankind: biodiversity loss, climate change and emergence of zoonotic diseases. The "Nexus Report: Nature Based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis" highlights in particular the need for significantly increased protection and restoration schemes with a focus on tropical forests and coastal ecosystems. It was jointly released today by three international foundations: the German-based global Foundations Platform F20, the Wyss Campaign for Nature in the U.S.A. and the Chinese Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology.

The foundations call on the G20 nations to integrate Nature-based Solutions as a core element into their economic stimulus packages as one of the most promising pathways to achieve one of the key objectives set for the summit: Safeguarding the planet. "We expect the G20 to demonstrate the political leadership that is required now to turn Nature-based Solutions into an integrated multi-lateral response to the intertwined crisis of biodiversity loss, climate change and global pandemics", said Stefan Schurig, Secretary General F20, on behalf of the three foundations.

A recent [report](#) by Vivid Economics and the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative underlines the urgency and importance of addressing major shortcomings of the current economic stimulus packages launched by the G20 nations in response to the COVID-19 crisis. It concludes that the current responses will fail to build back better by reinforcing negative



environmental trends leading to further irreversible damages to nature and climate and the possible outbreak of new pandemics of zoonotic diseases.

To catalyze the necessary global political will and mobilize coherent multilateral action on the three intertwined crisis, G20 efforts need to focus on

- explicitly reaffirming the principle, reflected in both UNFCCC and CBD decisions, that the conservation of the most carbon-dense and biodiversity-rich natural ecosystems is a key priority for a raising climate change ambition in the UNFCCC framework, establishing a strong Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework under the CBD, and reducing risks of future zoonotic pandemics
- sending a strong message to the UNFCCC and CBD on the need for more effective cooperation across the conventions around the adoption and scaling of Nature-based Solutions as a multi-purpose solution for climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Quote F20: “If action on climate change explicitly and systematically takes biodiversity conservation into account, we can generate urgently needed political will and mobilize financial and technical resources. It would be in line with some of the priorities set by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and sets the bar for a successful G20 summit next year with Italy in the presidency and the Green Deal as suggested by the European Union. The result of the US elections opens a new window of opportunity for multilateralism and for finding common answers for global challenges”, says Stefan Schurig, Secretary General F20

Quote SEE Foundation: “The climate and biodiversity crisis are closely intertwined – and they cannot be seen in isolation of a pandemic. The economic impacts of the pandemic are severe. Stimulus packages are therefore indispensable – but they need to be based on sustainability and climate action to increase the resilience of our societies and help avoiding future pandemics,” says Prof. Li (Aster) Zhang, Secretary General of SEE Foundation



Quote Campaign for Nature: “This new report offers concrete guidance on how to turn Nature Based Solutions into a “triple win” by protecting biodiversity, addressing climate change and preventing future pandemics. To achieve this, global leaders must secure an agreement at the CBD COP 15 to protect at least 30 percent of our planet’s land and seas by 2030 and set a concrete and ambitious restoration target”, says Brian O’Donnell, Director, Campaign for Nature.

Background:

The new study ‘The Nexus Report – Nature Based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis’ can be downloaded [here](#).

Report on [Greenness of Stimulus](#) Index by Vivid Economics and the Finance for Biodiversity Initiative

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