



The climate and biodiversity crises are converging, wreaking havoc with the systems that we and all life on Earth depend on for survival.

Centuries of destruction and over-exploitation have brought us to the brink.

We have just a few years to transform our relationship with nature to ensure ecosystems can thrive and sustain life for future generations; to protect the natural world; to eliminate the causes of biodiversity destruction; and to restore what we've lost.

This is a defining moment in human history requiring unprecedented urgent global action to save **Our One Home**.





To succeed, together we must achieve Five Breakthroughs for Nature:

- Adopt nature-positive decision-making at all levels within the public and private sector.
- 2 Urgently deliver at least an additional \$500bn annually to protect and restore nature.
- Empower delivery of locally led solutions in collaboration with national and international partners.
- Protect and restore nature to ensure climate stability, human health and well-being.
- Grow nature-positive impact through technological innovation.

This moment calls for action, determined leadership and ambitious collaboration from global organisations, governments and business, alongside determined pressure from civil society on policymakers and businesses.

Commitments must now become action.

Breakthrough

noun

A sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development





We are all responsible for the future, but governments and the private sector are fundamental to enabling the transformative and systemic changes required to protect and restore nature and eliminate the causes of biodiversity collapse. The interconnected climate and ecological challenges before us require nature to be actively prioritised in every government ministry, at all levels of national and local government, and in investment funds and corporate boardrooms - with leaders held accountable for outcomes. While the solutions to the crisis facing nature must be global, we recognise that this crisis has its roots in the practices of governments and businesses in the global north. The burden and costs should therefore fall proportionately.

Shifting urgently from a do-no-harm mindset, governments and companies must be driven by nature-positive policies, such as those outlined by the 2021 UK government-

commissioned Dasgupta review, which assessed the economic benefits of biodiversity globally, by proactively protecting and restoring nature through every decision and action. Only then will it be possible to achieve the most ambitious environmental and biodiversity targets.

Nature protection and restoration needs to be the cornerstone of our economies and societies. Now is the time to introduce nature-positive methods of economic development that deliver prosperity to all citizens, which must include the elimination of perverse and harmful subsidies. By incorporating the full value of natural resources into decision-making, leaders can drive sustainable economic prosperity, while ensuring diversity and abundance in nature.



Governments must:

- Peview and reform domestic policies in all sectors and at all levels of government, notably those of trade, energy, agriculture, water and transport, as well as those for foreign direct investment, to ensure they do not conflict with or contradict the nature and climate goals set by governments at all levels, and companies. These reforms must then be incorporated into trade agreements, bilateral and multilateral, to ensure they do not create loopholes, or contradict those domestic policies
- Commit to and track time-bound targets for achieving nature and climate goals, enabling full accountability of commitments against measurable, transparent milestones, encouraging greater scrutiny and civil society engagement

 Create mechanisms at the international level that ensure full accountability, learning from the creation of previous international mechanisms and bodies that are empowered to pursue justice and compel accountability, such as the International Criminal Court

The private sector has an integral part to play in ensuring nature protection and recovery is at the heart of all corporate operations and investment decisions, in addition to ensuring that all greenhouse gas emissions are radically cut and ultimately ended.

Companies must - at a minimum:

- Integrate a nature-positive agenda and policies throughout their strategy, investments and supply chains and then deliver nature-positive outcomes aligned with those policies
- Adopt policies and practices that minimise resource use and the attendant environmental impacts
- Ensure that meaningful nature metrics are integrated alongside climate metrics in measures of 'Environmental' in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and standards

The last few years have seen a large uptick in engagement, pressure and protest by citizens and civil society groups around climate, nature and biodiversity issues. Young people in particular have led the way in demanding action, knowing that the costs of inaction will fall unevenly - and dangerously - on their generation. No systemic shift of the type that is necessary today can be achieved without this engagement. Citizens and civil society groups should continue to hold policymakers and businesses to their commitments, goals and targets, and demand they go further, aided by government processes that are more transparent and open to scrutiny.



- The removal of subsidies that are harmful to nature, including those for fossil fuels, destructive fisheries, damaging agricultural practices and inputs, and the redirection of that financing to support nature and conservation initiatives
- Introduction of weightings for nature and climate that shift the balance of financial allocation and project financing decisions taken by investors away from destructive industries and activities and towards nature-positive industries and activities
- The creation of new financial mechanisms and the scaling of existing mechanisms such as REDD+ to deliver climate finance back to local stakeholders and into the continued protection of natural carbon stocks and sinks

Better enabling conditions and meeting funding commitments:

- Creating the enabling conditions and level playing fields for greatly increased private sector and philanthropic investment in nature-positive and climatepositive outcomes
- Prioritising, committing to and delivering on increased grant funding for nature-focused initiatives by wealthy nations in poorer countries that are most at need, to achieve ambitious commitments in multilateral environmental agreements
- More funding alone, however, will not fix existing structural problems that can impede the flow of financing. Current barriers that impede these flows, including insufficiently transparent funding allocation decisions, costly and bureaucratic processes, and onerous and prohibitive reporting requirements, 'must be fixed to ensure finance gets to the grassroots actors best placed to bring about lasting change.





operating in the most adversely affected areas and who have the best understanding of the threats to nature and the complex social and economic processes underpinning those threats.

New global commitments to protect and restore nature must be followed immediately by ambitious national plans that create the enabling policy environments that can empower those most affected to shape and lead solutions, in collaboration with partners.



We want to see:

- A far greater share of aid and philanthropic funding flowing directly to those most affected by, and most able to ensure, nature protection and restoration
- National governments actively delivering the supportive policies and enabling conditions needed for locally appropriate nature conservation initiatives to grow and sustain impact
- Local actors empowered to drive accountability for delivering on nature and climate goals and removing the drivers of nature loss

Nature defenders - from rangers to civil society groups to journalists - face increasing levels of intimidation and threats, and the number of people being murdered for defending nature is growing at an unconscionable rate every year. In line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, we call on governments and companies to uphold the law and actively stop intimidation and physical violence committed against nature defenders, and ensure that they can work and live safely.



Protect and restore nature to ensure climate stability, human health and well-being

The destruction of Earth's remaining natural systems must be halted to achieve global climate stability and maintain human life, culture, health, livelihoods and well-being.

These outcomes can only be achieved through intact ecosystems and the protection of all species, whose existence is essential to the interconnectedness required for ecosystems to function effectively.

Scaling up the protection and restoration of natural carbon sinks and stores will help determine our ability to reach global climate goals, and must be additional to - never a substitute for - rapid decarbonisation across industry and society. Nature-based solutions, to protect carbon sinks and reduce net emissions, are critical to mitigating and adaptingto climate change.

From rainforests to mangroves, grasslands to peatlands, nature-based solutions have the potential to prevent greenhouse gas emissions from natural sources, remove CO_2 from the atmosphere, reduce the impacts of increasingly extreme weather, as well as protect human health and boost human well-being.

Avoiding emissions and ensuring ongoing and enhanced removal of carbon from the atmosphere by protecting nature, including halting deforestation and the destruction of other natural carbon stores, must be central to climate action. This is the base from which further habitat restoration and recovery can be built. Alongside this, policy and institutional reforms are needed that ensure climate and nature are integrated at decision-making levels.



- Landscapes, freshwater and terrestrial carbon: A halt to the logging and clearance of forests, in particular old-growth sites, and to the removal of peatlands, as well as the protection and restoration of mangroves, grasslands and wetlands all highly effective engines of carbon storage. This should include a focus on scaling established approaches that prevent loss, and contribute to enhancing natural carbon stores, such as avoided deforestation programmes. Governments should also take more, stronger and rapid action to protect and restore freshwater sites which can be key fishing grounds, carbon stores, biodiversity hotspots, and sources of drinking water and crop irrigation. These actions alongside the urgent need to halt habitat loss and the over-exploitation of wildlife are critical to preventing future pandemics and ensuring human health and well-being.
- Seascapes and blue carbon: Prioritisation and protection of marine sites with significant legacy carbon stores such as old-growth mangrove forest, seagrass beds and previously undisturbed ocean sediment alongside maintaining and restoring natural coastal defences, such as coral reefs and coastal wetlands, all of which are critical to sustainable, low-impact coastal fisheries and food security. This must be accompanied by a restorative and nature-positive approach to aquaculture. In addition we call for a moratorium on deep-seabed mining to avoid the potential ascendance of a highly destructive industry that would be likely to adversely affect global ocean health, productivity and climate regulatory function.
- Integration of nature into global and national climate commitments: Ambitious nature-based targets must be incorporated into countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (the pledges countries make to reach net-zero climate emissions) to be delivered at COP26 to properly integrate nature into climate decision-making. These nature-based targets should be additional to fossil fuel net-zero pathways set by businesses.

Protection and restoration programmes must have functioning monitoring and assessment systems that ensure these programmes deliver their goals of securing and recovering carbon-rich habitats, ensuring carbon remains in these systems.

To be effective, conservation needs to harness the skills and innovation from all sectors and close the gap between conservation practitioners and the tools being developed by tech companies.

Collaboration across sectors can drive conservation innovation. When developed to meet the needs of those working on the front lines of conservation, technology can have a significant impact in tackling threats to nature. From using remote and automated sensing devices to monitor protected areas, detect and track poaching or illegal transportation of wildlife, to tracking illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, conservation technology can provide important new tools for those working on the ground to combat threats to nature. And yet much investment in technological solutions to global nature, societal and climate challenges currently appears to be either ignoring nature and biodiversity linkages or putting nature further at risk. And too often new technological tools are inaccessible to those who need them. Tech access must be widened considerably.

We want to see:

Technology redirection

 The redirection of technological development and deployment away from supporting destructive industries such as oil and gas exploration and deep-sea mining and towards people, programmes and conservation initiatives working to protect and restore nature globally.

Democratisation of access

 New tools and algorithms made accessible to conservationists around the world so that access to technologies achieves a far greater and necessary scale to real impact, led by those on the ground most affected by, and most able to ensure, nature protection and restoration.

Capacity building

 An increase in the long-term funding for conservation technology initiatives to support research and development (including at the local level) to help groups apply new technologies and ensure new conservation technology is seen through to effective deployment and scale.

Sustainability in solutions

Circular design principles embedded into research and development to ensure tech solutions themselves are more sustainable, nature positive and carbon neutral.

An open space for digital technology, communications companies and conservation practitioners to collaborate and solve practical problems is vital to creating impact at scale. Such collaboration is critical to articulating the challenges facing conservationists in using technology and ensuring new tools and opportunities for protecting and restoring nature through technological innovation are realised.

Grow naturepositive impact
through
technological
innovation





Today, we - and the world- face the biggest challenge yet.

Without immediate, far-reaching action by governments, companies and conservationists, and sustained engagement by citizens, we will be responsible for the sixth mass extinction and fail to protect the very ecosystems that sustain life on Earth.

At FFI we take that threat very seriously. Now, more than ever, we must come together. FFI is calling for immediate action on five key fronts and we will work with our partners to rally political and business leaders, philanthropists and global citizens at this pivotal moment in our shared history.

In the face of adversity, this can be a profound moment to shape the future of conservation practice and engage a new generation in the vital work to protect and restore nature.

The challenges we face are great, but we can be inspired by past advances as we seek to achieve new breakthroughs that could help save a world under threat. Examples abound of our work to protect and restore nature, standing shoulder to shoulder with the communities who understand what action is needed where:

- Worldwide, we are helping to protect around 50 million hectares of crucial habitat that includes forests, peatlands, grasslands and seagrass meadows. Collectively, these intact ecosystems prevent the release of the carbon equivalent of nearly three gigatonnes of CO₂, comparable to more than half the annual emissions of the United States.
- Our global forest protection efforts within FFI's long-running climate programme include a range of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) projects in Africa and Southeast Asia, which support communities and governments to keep their forests standing.
- Empowerment of local actors permeates every facet of FFI's work at over 300 project sites in almost 50 countries. That means technical, financial and other support to local organisations, government departments and communities in countries with limited resources protecting nature and transforming thousands of lives. The people who know best how to safeguard nature are those who live alongside it. We know what it takes to support them.
- FFI's work to promote nature-positive decision-making at government level spans almost a century. We've helped broker transboundary nature protection agreements between Liberia and Guinea, China and Vietnam, and Rwanda, DRC and Uganda. We pushed to secure a UK microbeads ban eliminating tiny plastic beads from cosmetic products, thereby helping remove a source of plastic pollution from the ocean and we've led the way in calling for an urgent, global moratorium on deep-sea mining.

We have a track record of success in all aspects of 21st century conservation.

- We've helped local partners hold the line against a poaching onslaught threatening the largest remaining population of the critically endangered Sumatran tiger. We've helped cut elephant poaching to zero for an entire year across Mozambique's vast Niassa Reserve. We've ensured communities benefit from mountain gorilla tourism and other conservation initiatives. And we've restored over 30 Caribbean islands to their former glory, saving countless endangered species in the process. In Tajikistan we've planted tens of thousands of seedlings to restore endemic fruit forests since 2017 and in Turkey, through our local partner, FFI supported the government to designate 350 square kilometres of Turkey's coastline as new marine protected sites. Every project, every habitat and species protected, is a victory against extinction.
- The world is home to 1.8 billion young people the largest generation of youth in history. They are the ones leading the way in holding decision-makers to account, and they are the ones who will bear the greatest cost if we fail to act to protect nature and stabilise the climate. Through the Conservation Leadership Programme a partnership of FFI, BirdLife International and WCS grants, training, mentoring and networking opportunities are provided to budding young conservationists around the world. Since its formation more than 30 years ago, the programme

- has funded more than 700 projects and 150 paid internships in over 100 countries, and helped to kick-start the careers of nearly 3,000 people.
- FFI is the host of WILDLABS, a collaborative partnership founded in 2015 by FFI, WWF, The Royal Foundation, WCS, ZSL, and Cl. The partnership works with the technology sector, governments, conservationists and academia to accelerate the development and adoption of technology for conservation impact. It enables WILDLABS.NET, a platform that connects over 5,300 community members in more than 160 countries. to crowdsource advice from tech users, and collaboratively develop new technology for conservation.
- Through its finance and enterprise programme FFI helps build local, sustainable economic resilience.
 We have developed inclusive finance models such as small loans for rural communities in Liberia and Uganda to promote diversified sustainable livelihood opportunities in local economies; we have supported the creation of sustainable commercial honey projects in Mozambique and Príncipe and community-based ecotourism projects in Africa and Central America.

New partnerships will be needed that forge deeper and stronger collaboration across sectors, geographies and areas of expertise if we are to create a sustainable future for the planet where biodiversity is protected effectively by people who live closest to it, and supported by policymakers and business.

Humanity faces an uncertain future, but we believe these Five Breakthroughs for Nature represent our best chance of protecting and restoring the ecosystems on which we all depend, reversing the loss of the biodiversity that is fundamental to life on Earth, and avoiding catastrophic climate change.

