

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

IUCN NL

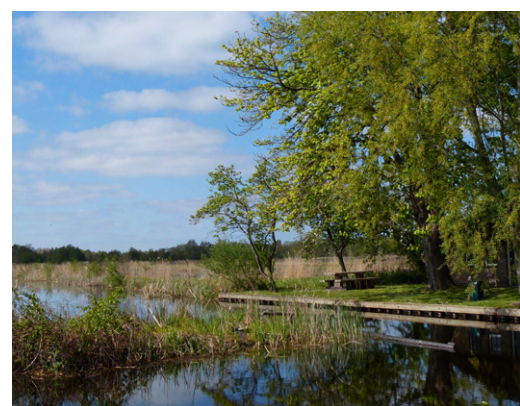


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FOREWORD

ALL OVER THE WORLD, NATURE HAS BEEN ARRIVING AT THE HEART OF POLICY AND POLITICS. AS NECESSARY ACTIONS ARE PREPARED, LARGE INTERESTS IN MAINTAINING UNSUSTAINABLE USE OF OUR PLANET BECOME APPARENT. IN THE NETHERLANDS, THE NITROGEN CRISIS SPARKED POLITICAL POLARISATION AND THREATS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS. MULTIPLE SOCIETAL CHALLENGES DEPEND ON SUCCESSFULLY REDUCING THE PRESSURES ON BIODIVERSITY.

As a beacon of hope, in December 2022, 194 countries agreed to a new global strategy to stop and reverse biodiversity loss with 23 clear global targets to be realised with the whole of society. IUCN NL is proud to have contributed to this global milestone, supporting an active role by the Netherlands.

Amidst these developments we managed to realise several concrete results for nature and people. Just a grasp:

We funded six new land acquisition projects securing thousands of hectares of vulnerable nature in Africa, Asia and South America. We produced practical guidelines for privately protected areas, crucially important to realise the global 30x30 target. We provided a total of 20,000 euro in emergency funds to seven local partner organisations e.g. for combating wildfires and legal support of environmental defenders. In six countries Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, have increased participation in decision-making processes.

We also started new initiatives with new partners. With Strengthen the Roots we will strengthen the fundamentals of local civil society organisations

in Ghana, Indonesia and Bolivia. In Bolivia, we also started a collaborative project in support of the 1.2 Million ha. *Nembi Guasu* landscape governed by Indigenous peoples. A small grants programme was launched to support locally lead conservation and adaptation in Madagascar, Comores, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. In the Netherlands we started developing the National Biodiversity Dashboard to be launched in 2023.



Atewa forest in Ghana © IUCN NL

With the COVID-19 epidemic gradually diminishing, we returned to working at the office be it in a hybrid manner. We felt the loss of saying goodbye to ten valued colleagues whose contracts were ended in a necessary downsizing. Simultaneously we built a new project base for our mission in coming years. We are proud of the commitment and flexibility of our team in this intensive year.

In this changing world, IUCN NL strives to fulfil its role in the Netherlands and internationally with even higher ambition and commitment in 2023, working together with the Dutch IUCN members and partner organisations all over the world, made possible by our financial partners in the Netherlands, Europe and beyond.

Coenraad Krijger, Director

Angélique Laskewitz, Chair Supervisory Board



Angélique Laskewitz



Coenraad Krijger

Multiple societal challenges depend on successfully reducing the pressures on biodiversity.

2022 IN A NUTSHELL



Financed

120

initiatives of partners organisations, in **21 countries**, for € 3,233,874,-

Funded 6 new projects

to secure 5,251 hectares of vulnerable nature in



Tanzania, South Africa, Colombia, Mozambique and Cambodia

Provided a total of € 20,000 in emergency funds to

7 partners



which are used to provide relief around natural disasters, support to combat wildfires and legal support of environmental defenders amongst others

Supported the **increased participation** in decision-making processes for Indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth, in



6 countries

2022 IN A
NUTSHELL

Provided a **network** of Venezuelan conservationists with USD 40,000 of institutional support, to hire a coordinator, a communication expert and organise capacity building meetings

Contributed to the restoration of **700 ha** degraded natural forest and agroforestry sites in northern Ghana



Published **practical guidelines** for the creation and management of privately protected areas



Identified **75 persons** involved in **jaguar trafficking** as part of Operation Jaguar investigations



2022 IN A
NUTSHELL

3 **mobile hearings**
contributed to
combatting wildlife
in Virunga National Park

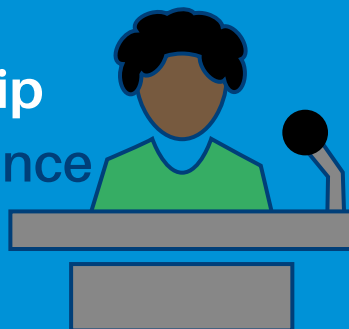


Published a guide to
sustainable planted-based
protein value chains with
16 chain factsheets

Contributed to **28**
policy measures to
safeguard nature
as part of our GLA
programme



Involved in **15 campaigns**
to promote gender just forest
demands and
female leadership
in forest governance
through our
GLA programme



7.4 million in income

7.7 million in expenditure of which



► More detailed financial information can be found in our financial report that will be published on our website in July 2023.

NEW PROJECTS

New

Strengthen the Roots •
€860,000 • Dutch Postcode
Lottery • 2022 - 2025

Regional Implementation
Team for small grants
fund management for the
Madagascar and Indian Ocean
Islands Biodiversity Hotspot •
€737,000 • Critical Ecosystem
Partnership Fund (CEPF) •
2022 - 2027

Land Acquisition Fund •
€600,000 • Private Foundation •
2022 - 2024

Fair and effective financing for
the environment and climate
action in the EU Overseas by
2030 • €400,000 • EU LIFE BEST
• 2022 - 2030

To live well together.
Supporting the Indigenous
government of the Charagua to
conserve Reserve Nembi Guasu
in Bolivia • €361.353 • DOB
Ecology • 2022 - 2024

REWET • €347,000 • EU
HORIZON • 2022 - 2026

Inclusive protection of environmental defenders in the region of the Madre de Dios in the Peruvian Amazon • €798,744 • Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) • 2023 – 2025

Dashboard Biodiversiteitshersel • €173,660 • Gieskes Strijbis Fonds • 2022 – 2023

Virunga Youth: A Lifelong Bond • €74,966 • The Schmidt Family Foundation • 2023 – 2023

Rewilding Traditional Knowledge in Jaguar Landscapes • €45,800 • Otter Stichting • 2022 – 2023

Veenweideherstel Friesland (pilot) • €20,500 • Ansvar / Turien • 2022

Onder het Maaiveld – Development of a guideline for provinces and municipalities for protection and restoration of soil biodiversity • €10,000 • Triodos Foundation • 2022

Next to these new projects, in 2022 we also supported eight short-term consultancy assignments with a total income of €140,731

2022 IN A
NUTSHELL

38 member organisations

**6 Supervisory board members
2 female and 4 male:**

- Angélique Laskewitz (Chair)
- Franc van den Berg (Vice-Chair)
- Luc Bas
- Daan van Cann
- Merel Soons
- Teo Wams

**5 management team members,
2 female and 3 male:**

- Coenraad Krijger, Director
- Cas Besselink
- Liliana Jauregui
- Monique de Jong
- Hans van Zijl

27,21 FTE's
average
workforce



58,62% female

41,38% male



3 new employees
joined IUCN NL

10 →
employees left the
organisation

Average age: 44,5

(youngest employee: 23
oldest employee: 64)

We had **1** intern,
1 volunteer and **1**
seconded contract

January
2022

February
2022

March
2022

April
2022

May
2022

June
2022

Kick-off project
National
Biodiversity
Dashboard project
[SEE PAGE 22 ►](#)

2 February
Publication study
on financing
natural coastal
protection
[SEE LINK ►](#)

24 February
Russian invasion in
Ukraine. How is this
affecting nature
conservation?
[SEE PAGE 20 ►](#)

8 March
International
Women's Day
[SEE LINK ►](#)



31 March
Label for
sustainable rattan
launched
[SEE LINK ►](#)

19 April
Escazú Agreement
from a gender
perspective
[SEE LINK ►](#)

21 April
Green Debate
[SEE LINK ►](#)

18 May
Publication
guidelines on
privately protected
areas
[SEE PAGE 25 ►](#)

19 May
Publication report
on impact of
Dutch insurers on
biodiversity
[SEE LINK ►](#)

31 May
'Bodemdag' Onder
het Maaiveld
[SEE LINK ►](#)

Timeline 2022

**July
2022**

**August
2022**

**September
2022**

**October
2022**

**November
2022**

**December
2022**

July

Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) in Kigali, Rwanda

[SEE LINK ►](#)

21 July

Red List update highlighting that the migratory monarch butterfly is now Endangered

[SEE LINK ►](#)



31 July

Launch podcast Mobilising More for Climate

[SEE LINK ►](#)



August

Protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples: going beyond national interest

[SEE PAGE 45 ►](#)

September

'Fietsende Vogelaar' Koen de Geus back from his tour in Latin America

[SEE LINK ►](#)

26 September

Childrens book on the importance of a healthy soil launched in the Rijksmuseum gardens

[SEE LINK ►](#)

6 October

Event 'Cultural Value of Jaguars in Suriname' in Café De Tropen

[SEE LINK ►](#)



6 October

Webinar 'Feminists for Forests'

[SEE LINK ►](#)

6 October

Event 'Mind the Mining Pit' in Pakhuis de Zwijger

[SEE LINK ►](#)

7 October

European premiere of the movie Tigre Gente

[SEE LINK ►](#)



22 October

Publication 'Sustainable plant-based on a global scale - A guide to international chain management in the protein transition'

[SEE PAGE 53 ►](#)

1 November

'The illusion of abundance' on women activists from Latin America

[SEE LINK ►](#)

15 November

First call for proposals to protect biodiversity on Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands

[SEE PAGE 35 ►](#)

17 November

Publication summary report on jaguar trafficking and its convergence

[SEE PAGE 27 ►](#)

30 November

Paper MoMo4C 'Business case development in frontier markets to support climate resilient landscapes'

[SEE LINK ►](#)

November

Strengthen the Roots trainings

[SEE PAGE 41 ►](#)

November

Women's Cooperative for shea wins Equator Prize

[SEE PAGE 43 ►](#)

9 December

Red List Update highlighting a barrage of threats affecting marine species

[SEE LINK ►](#)



10 December

Premiere of the film 'Onder het maaiveld'

[SEE PAGE 29 ►](#)

December

Announcement of new Land acquisition fund grantees 2022

[SEE LINK ►](#)

19 December

Agreement was reached on a new Global Biodiversity Framework

[SEE LINK ►](#)



IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands

IUCN NL serves as the platform for Dutch members of IUCN (the Dutch National Committee) and works with them to safeguard nature and biodiversity, in the Netherlands and beyond. We facilitate knowledge sharing and promote the joint defence of shared interests.

In 2022, we helped members, experts and politicians prepare for the new Global Biodiversity Framework. During the Green Debate, panellists called for leadership from the Dutch government to establish measurable national goals for biodiversity restoration. The Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity, which we are developing together with members, will be an important tool in monitoring national progress on biodiversity. In 2022, IUCN had 38 members in the Netherlands.



ARTIS



[Amazon Conservation Team](#)

[ARK Natuurontwikkeling](#)

[ARTIS](#)

[Avalon](#)

[Bears in mind](#)

[Black Jaguar Foundation](#)

[Both Ends](#)

[Carmabi](#)

[Chimbo Foundation](#)

[Commonland](#)

[DCNA](#)

[EAZA](#)

[Floron](#)

[IBED](#)

[IVN](#)

[IFAW](#)

[KNNV](#)

[LandschappenNL](#)

[Leo Foundation](#)

[Milieudefensie](#)

[Naturalis](#)

[Natuur & Milieu](#)

[Natuurmonumenten](#)

[NVBT](#)

[Nederlandse Vereniging van Dierentuinen](#)

[Ouwehand Zoo Foundation](#)

[Prince Bernhard Chair](#)

[Rewilding Europe](#)

[RAVON](#)

[Rijksoverheid](#)

[Staatsbosbeheer](#)

[SOVON](#)

[Tropenbos International](#)

[Van Tienhoven Foundation](#)

[De Vlinderstichting](#)

[Vogelbescherming](#)

[Waddenvereniging](#)

[Wetlands International](#)

[WWF](#)

[Zoogdiervereniging](#)



Gemertsedijk, Erp, The Netherlands © Joran Quinten

IUCN AND THE NETHERLANDS: KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY FOR NATURE

IUCN NL is the Dutch branch of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. In 2022, we shared knowledge and cooperated with the Dutch members of IUCN on important developments around the new Dutch coalition agreement and the new Global Biodiversity Framework.

During two well-attended national meetings, Dutch IUCN members were informed about and discussed implications of the new Dutch coalition agreement, the UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP15) and the impacts of climate change on nature in the Netherlands.

INFLUENCING POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Together with IUCN members, IUCN NL aims to inform and influence policy development, typically from a factual and solution-oriented stance. This year, IUCN NL director Coenraad Krijger fulfilled the role of chair of the Groene 11, the cooperation network for public affairs of major Dutch nature and environmental organisations. In this capacity IUCN NL supported concerted action during a turbulent period for politics with a new coalition agreement and nature moving to the forefront of the debate on nitrogen policy. 'An impressive joint achievement was [a joint call to the Dutch government](#) to build a future with nature at the centre, which 64 organisations supported,' says Marianne de Beer of IUCN NL.

PROMOTING IUCN KNOWLEDGE

Another core role of IUCN NL as Dutch branch of IUCN is to promote its knowledge products, Global Standards and their use by Dutch actors. In 2022, we promoted the updates of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species amongst Dutch media and the wider public. In the policy sphere, we stressed the importance of the IUCN standard for protected areas in the development of a new Dutch standard for National Parks and consultations for the update of national Natura 2000 policy. Following a resolution to this extent, IUCN advised the Dutch government to reconsider the plans for gas extraction in The Wadden Sea, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

IUCN IN 2022

Globally, IUCN played an instrumental role in policy development and agreements for nature. In a year with two important policy moments for the environment, namely the UN Climate Summit (UNFCCC COP27) and the UN Biodiversity Summit (CBD COP15), [IUCN called for](#) a joint approach to these interlinked crises.

● [Learn more](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work for and with Dutch IUCN Members? Contact Marianne de Beer.
Email: Marianne.debeer@iucn.nl



The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

At the 15th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15) in Montreal, a biodiversity agreement to halt biodiversity loss was reached on December 19.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains 23 science-based targets for urgent action that cover all key steps with the aim of halting global biodiversity loss and restoring biodiversity by 2030 with the ultimate goal of living in harmony with nature by 2050. Besides halting biodiversity loss itself, the agreement also focuses on securing nature's contributions to people, equitably sharing the benefits of biodiversity use, and the financing needed to meet the targets. Major game changers are the focus on the responsibility of all actors impacting on biodiversity, notably private sector, and the contribution and rights of Indigenous peoples, local communities and women.

IUCN provided a wide array of information and policy documents which informed the new Global Biodiversity Framework and was extremely well-represented at the biodiversity summit with a delegation of 16,000 IUCN delegates, many of them attending remotely.

IUCN NL actively supported an ambitious, science-based position by the Dutch government. Two IUCN NL staff members were part of the preparation and negotiations as members of the Dutch delegation.

Partners

• Delta Plan Biodiversity Restoration • Naturalis Biodiversity Center

GREEN DEBATE: THE NETHERLANDS MUST CHANGE COURSE TO ACHIEVE NEW BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

On Thursday 21 April, scientists, politicians and young professionals discussed the new national targets for biodiversity and the role of the Dutch government in tackling the biodiversity crisis. They did so during a new instalment of The Green Debate organised by Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Delta Plan Biodiversity Restoration and IUCN NL.



The Green Debate © Rafael Martig

The UN Biodiversity Summit that took place in December was a central topic of the debate. World leaders, including the Dutch Minister for Nature and Nitrogen, set biodiversity targets for 2030 at this summit and negotiated a new global biodiversity framework. Ambitious targets for biodiversity are very much needed, as the state of nature is continuously declining. We see the consequences of this in the Netherlands too: essential issues such as clean drinking water, food security and a healthy environment are under pressure due to declining biodiversity. To achieve the goals for biodiversity restoration in the Netherlands by 2030, we need to make drastic changes.

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER FOR NATURE AND NITROGEN

After 100 days of the new cabinet of the Netherlands, scientists, politicians and young professionals took stock together during the Green Debate. Their conversation was introduced with a video message from Christianne van der Wal-Zeggelink, Minister for Nature and Nitrogen. She talked about the government's plans and vision: 'We do not limit our efforts to the official nature reserves. We increasingly look at the Netherlands through a nature-inclusive lens. This means that in everything we build and change in our environment in the coming period, we will look at how nature can be included. Even nature outside our borders will ultimately benefit from this.'

The panel discussion then made it clear that there is a need for leadership from the Dutch government to establish a framework and measurable national goals for biodiversity restoration.

GROWING URGENCY

'There is a growing will and need to contribute positively to biodiversity. From different corners of society, also from the financial sector, for example. We are pleased that the urgency for biodiversity restoration is becoming more widely supported. The Dutch government is now up to the task of developing policies that match society's ambitions,' says Coenraad Krijger, director IUCN NL.

● [Watch the recording of the Green Election Debate 2022](#)



MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work on vigorous policy for nature? Check out our website or contact Marianne de Beer. Email: marianne.debeer@iucn.nl



REWILDING EUROPE: HOW THE CONFLICT IN UKRAINE AFFECTS NATURE CONSERVATION

As the national committee of IUCN in the Netherlands, we want to share the important work of our member organisations. A few months after the start of the war in Ukraine in February 2022, we spoke with Rewilding Europe. Mykhailo Nesterenko and Katya Kurakina of Rewilding Ukraine fled to the Netherlands when their hometown Odessa was under attack. At the time, there was little scientific knowledge about the impact yet, but it was already clear to them that nature also became a victim of the violence.



Water buffaloes in the Danube Delta © Andrey Nekrasov

Four months after Russian troops entered a large part of Ukraine, military activity mainly was taking place in the southeast of the country. The ongoing conflict has been affecting biodiversity and nature directly and indirectly.

CHEMICAL POLLUTION AND DAMAGED INFRASTRUCTURE

‘We know that some national parks were bombed and that roads and ranger offices have been destroyed, but we do not know yet what are the direct consequences for nature and wildlife,’ said Katya in the interview.

Chemical pollution caused by destroyed gas lines, chemical plants, oil depots, and other industrial sites has been a serious threat to the wellbeing of people and nature. Damaged infrastructure and a lack of financial resources due to the closure of national parks have a less direct impact, but still make rewilding and conservation efforts difficult.

CONSERVATION EFFORTS IN THE DANUBE DELTA

A serious obstacle in continuing conservation work in Ukraine are the many land mines. According to Mykhailo, approximately 25 percent of Ukraine was covered by land mines at the time: 'it will take years to remove all of them.'

Many of these objects are located in the coastal region, including the southwestern Danube Delta. Rewilding Ukraine's major project is rewilding this 600,000 hectare mosaic of marshes, forests, reed beds, streams, and islands.

The nature organisation has been working on restoring the water flow in the Danube Delta and reintroducing species, such as the water buffalo, to restore the ecosystem. 'There are many things we cannot do now, but we focus on the things we can do. In parts of the reserve we are able to remove dams, and we try to relocate deer to the Danube Delta,' explained Mykhailo.



Mykhailo Nesterenko © Andrey Nekrasov

VROEGE VOGELS

As a result of this article, news platform 'Vroege Vogels' spoke with Mykhailo Nesterenko and Frans Schepers, executive director of Rewilding Europe, about nature conservation in Ukraine.

● [Read the full article on our website](#)

● [Listen to the item here \(in Dutch only\)](#)



Konik horses in the Danube Delta © Andrey Nekrasov

Partners

• **Naturalis Biodiversity Center • SoortenNL •**
SOVON Vogelonderzoek Nederland

NATIONAL DASHBOARD TO GUIDE AND MONITOR BIODIVERSITY RESTORATION

The Netherlands is facing a major biodiversity challenge, which calls for an ambitious and effective approach to restoring nature. This starts with clear goals and measurable targets. For this reason, IUCN NL started developing the National Biodiversity Dashboard in 2022, financially supported by Gieskes-Strijbis Fonds and IUCN NL using the annual contribution by the Dutch Postcode Lottery.



Ruff kemphaan (*Philomachus pugnax*) © Laurens Gomes

On this dashboard, we combine and cluster national and international biodiversity targets with the right indicators to manage and steer the Netherlands' actions and policy for biodiversity and monitor progress on reaching targets.

DUTCH NATURE AND BIODIVERSITY INSUFFICIENTLY PROTECTED

The measures taken over the past decade to protect Dutch nature and biodiversity have proven insufficient: none of the biodiversity targets for 2020 has been achieved and no single European country counts as many endangered animal and plant species as the Netherlands. It is crucial to halt biodiversity loss and to restore nature. Not only to preserve our country's beautiful species, but also to ensure sustainable food supply, clean water, a healthy living environment and to address the climate crisis.

New targets for biodiversity

At the UN Biodiversity Summit in Montreal, new targets to conserve and restore biodiversity were set for 2030. The Netherlands committed itself to these new targets. One of these targets is to protect 30% of land, rivers, lakes, and wetlands by 2030, a target that was already set in the European Union's biodiversity strategy in 2020.

objectives and nature conservation. The National Biodiversity Dashboard that we are developing will help achieve this by helping policy makers to steer towards biodiversity restoration,' says Coenraad Krijger, director of IUCN NL.

In 2022, we were able to come up with a limited set of 15 targets with key stakeholders, and have started developing a prototype of the National Dashboard, to be launched in 2023.

TARGETS FOR NATURE RESTORATION

Dutch policies and actions for nature conservation are highly decentralised and lack coherence at a national level. This means that we cannot be certain that all policies and actions combined will actually lead to the conservation and restoration of biodiversity.

To turn the tide for nature in the Netherlands, we need a joint strategy with a clear, shared set of national targets. 'These targets should be based on the most up-to-date knowledge of biodiversity, policy

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about the National Dashboard for Biodiversity? Visit our [website](#) or contact Hanneloes Weeda. Email: hanneloes.weeda@iucn.nl



© Joran Quinten



Nature conservation

Biodiversity is declining rapidly. Not only in the Netherlands, but also worldwide. Among the main causes are habitat loss, climate change and wildlife crime. With our partner organisations around the globe, we tackle forest crime and protect and restore the habitat of threatened species.

- American Bird Conservancy



Troschel's tree frog in Ecuador © Fabian Rodas, Naturaleza y Cultura Internacional

SUSTAINABLE NATURE RESERVES: GUIDELINES FOR PRIVATELY PROTECTED AREAS

The IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund has a network of 140 partner organisations around the world. In addition to funding land acquisition for nature conservation, we bring together the knowledge of the organisations in our network. Together with the American Bird Conservancy and our local partner organisations, we developed practical guidelines for people managing privately protected areas.

Privately protected areas are nature reserves that are not owned by a government authority, but by an individual, company or non-profit organisation. Projects funded by the Land Acquisition Fund are developed and implemented by local conservation NGOs.

The proposals of these organisations are selected during a thorough selection process. 'Effectively financing nature conservation is a matter of finding the right people with passion for nature in the places where it matters most,' says Marc Hoogeslag, senior expert nature conservation at IUCN NL.

THE NEED FOR PRIVATELY PROTECTED AREAS

These protected areas, managed by local, dedicated professionals are powerful tools to restore, connect and conserve natural habitats, protect species, and create wildlife corridors.

As the urgency to protect our planet grows, awareness about the value of privately protected land, in addition to protected areas managed by governments, is increasing. 'We need privately protected areas to reach the 30x30 objective; it is impossible to protect 30% of the planet by 2030 with the resources of governments only,' says Marc.

HOW TO MANAGE A PRIVATE RESERVE

Managers of privately-owned nature reserves have indicated to struggle with effectively managing their protected areas after focusing on the acquisition and establishment phases. This manual responds to this gap by offering practical guidelines for (aspired) reserve owners, based on lessons learnt from the managers of private protected areas and other experts.

The manual is divided in nine pragmatic steps, guiding readers from the design phase, to the actual acquisition of the land and the development of management tools. They provide men and women, NGOs, and civil-society groups with useful information on sustainability and fundraising, proposal writing, community engagement, and restoration.

● [Download the manual here](#)

Support from the private sector

In 2022, IUCN NL received increasing support from the private sector for land acquisition and restoration. Our Entrepreneurs Support for Nature Fund is building a portfolio of high-impact nature projects to which companies can donate. We aim to bring together the ambition of companies to contribute to a healthy planet and a supply of impactful projects safeguarding nature around the globe. [In the Netherlands](#), this concerns nature restoration projects of our member organisations. In other countries, these projects are developed and implemented by the local partners of the [IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund](#) who acquire and manage nature reserves.



Denham's Bustard, South Africa © Overberg Renosterveld, Conservation Trust

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about our Land Acquisition Fund on our [website](#) or contact Marc Hoogeslag: marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl



Partners

• International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) •
Earth League International (ELI) • Savia (Bolivia) •
Neowild (Suriname)



Officer showing confiscated jaguar bones
© Britta Jaschinski IUCN NL

JAGUAR TRAFFICKING AND CONVERGENCE WITH OTHER CRIMES

To tackle illegal jaguar trafficking, more information on the trade's scale, nature and dynamics is needed. Therefore, as part of Operation Jaguar, our project partner Earth League International (ELI) conducted covert investigations on jaguar trafficking in Latin America, focusing on some of the most important transnational trafficking networks in the region. In November 2022, we published a summary report based on this research, which provides a deeper look into jaguar trafficking and its convergence with other crimes in Bolivia, Suriname, Peru, and Ecuador. The report was shared at the global CITES conference in Panama.

Currently, the jaguar (*Panthera onca*) is listed on CITES Appendix I and is classified on the IUCN Red List as 'near threatened', with numbers continuing to decrease for a variety of reasons, including poaching and trafficking. Liliana Jauregui, who led the Operation Jaguar project from 2019 to 2023, explains: 'Jaguar's parts, mostly fangs and bones, are primarily destined for Chinese markets to be sold as a valid substitute for tiger parts. Chinese medicine has ascribed magical powers and medical properties to tiger bones and teeth for millennia. Thus, many Chinese refer to jaguars as 'the American tiger'.'

ELI conducted covert investigations on jaguar trafficking in four Latin American countries: Bolivia, Suriname, Peru, and Ecuador. The focus of the intelligence-led operation was to unveil the central nodes, modus operandi, and structure of the entire criminal supply chain, focusing on the illegal wildlife goods providers, the traders, the transporters, and the sellers in China.

UNVEILING JAGUAR TRAFFICKING NETWORKS

Liliana adds: 'ELI's research enabled us to unveil the dynamics underneath jaguar trafficking in the region and identify the main players, trafficking routes, and destinations. Over the years more than a dozen trafficking networks operating regionally and internationally have been uncovered and information about these trafficking networks has been shared with several governmental and intergovernmental agencies. We also shared detailed evidence and first-hand information regarding jaguar trafficking and its convergence, or overlap, with other serious crimes, such as drug smuggling, human trafficking, gold trafficking, or money laundering.'

● [Download the report](#)



Jaguar © Carlos Navarro

Three years of jaguar conservation

Jaguars are increasingly being poached for their fangs, skin, bones, and other body parts. In some cultures, the bones are thought to have medicinal benefits and the fangs are used for jewellery to signify social status.

That is why, from 2019 to 2023, IUCN NL, Earth League International (ELI), and IFAW worked together on Operation Jaguar to combat illegal trade in jaguars in Peru, Bolivia, Guyana, and Suriname. The project was made possible with support from the Dutch Postcode Lottery.

How did we combat jaguar poaching?

- We generated a more systematic understanding of the extent, dynamics, and structure of illegal jaguar trade.
- We improved the prevention of poaching and illegal wildlife trade in jaguar habitats.
- We professionalised the capacity to combat wildlife trafficking in key enforcement and judicial agencies.
- We elevated the priority given to wildlife trafficking by the government and the public.

Watch the wrap-up video to learn more about Operation Jaguar.



MORE INFORMATION

Interested to learn more about how we are fighting wildlife crime? Check out our [website](#) or contact Liliana Jauregui.

Email: Liliana.jauregui@iucn.nl



Partners

• The Butterfly Foundation • the Netherlands
Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW) • Wageningen
University & Research (WUR)



Bacteria © EMS Films

MOVIE ABOUT SOIL BIODIVERSITY: GETTING TO KNOW THE UNKNOWN UNDERGROUND



Snail eggs © EMS Films

Did you know that a teaspoon of soil contains more living organisms than there are people living on Earth? The movie *Onder het Maaiveld*, which premiered in December 2022, takes its viewer on a fascinating underground journey where the very small and microscopic world of our soil is brought to life. Amazement and inspiration take centre stage.

The movie, produced by EMS Films and broadcasted in cinemas all over the Netherlands from March 2023 onwards, was initiated by IUCN NL as part of the three-year Onder het Maaiveld programme. In this programme (2020-2023) IUCN NL and its partners are working on a structural change in the way we deal with the soil that will enable the recovery of soil life. Raising awareness for the importance of soil biodiversity was an important strategic priority in the programme and the film contributes significantly to that.

The subject did prove to be a major technical challenge. How do you film microscopic organisms such as fungi and bacteria living underground? There was a reason this had not been done before. In their quest, the filmmakers collaborated with scientists from the Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO-KNAW), Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Wageningen University & Research (WUR), Micropia in ARTIS and numerous other experts.

Watch the trailer for a sneak preview of the world underneath our feet.

 **WATCH VIDEO**

MORE INFORMATION

Interested to learn more about our work on soil biodiversity? Check out our [website](#) or contact **Caspar Verwer**.

Email: caspar.verwer@iucn.nl



Fungus © EMS Films

Raising awareness for the importance of soil biodiversity was an important strategic priority in the programme and the film contributes significantly to that.





Climate

The biodiversity crisis is closely linked to the climate crisis. Many plant and animal species are suffering from the changing climate. At the same time, healthy ecosystems rich in biodiversity are indispensable to reduce climate change and to adapt to its impacts. Together with our partner organisations, we work to tackle both crises at once.

Partners

• A Rocha Ghana • Alliance for Tompotika Conservation • Alyansa Tigil Mina and other partners in Africa, South America and Asia

MINERAL MINING AND THE ENERGY TRANSITION

Wind turbines, solar panels and electric cars require large amounts of raw materials such as nickel, copper, cobalt, bauxite, manganese, and platinum. These are currently mainly extracted in Africa, South America and Asia, often with disastrous consequences for people and nature. Because of the energy transition, the demand for these raw materials continues to increase. How do we ensure that the energy transition does not lead to the same pitfalls as the fossil fuel economy?



Ban open pit mining protest © ATM

This was the central question during a high-level debate organised by IUCN NL in cooperation with [Pakhuis de Zwijger](#) and [several other organisations](#). With our partner A Rocha Ghana we also organised a [workshop on this topic at the Africa Protected Areas Congress \(APAC\)](#).

MINING THREATENS BIODIVERSITY

In Ghana for example, the government wants to mine the Atewa Forest for bauxite. This would not only threaten biodiversity and endangered species in the region, it would also endanger the water source for five million Ghanaians. 'The incredible biodiversity of the Atewa Forest and the ecosystem services it provides are invaluable,' said Daryl Bosu of A Rocha Ghana.

The Atewa Forest is also a Key Biodiversity Area. Being an important habitat for mammals, birds, butterflies, and plants, this unique forest is on the list of the global [Alliance for Zero Extinction](#). This means Atewa should be fully protected and is considered a 'no-go area' for any type of exploitation including mining. Therefore, in 2022, A Rocha Ghana, together with other NGOs, prepared the filing of a lawsuit against the Government of Ghana to block its plans to exploit the Atewa Range Forest for bauxite

CLIMATE JUSTICE: A HEALTHY AND JUST WORLD

Also in other countries, such as the [Philippines](#) and [Indonesia](#), mining is a serious threat to biodiversity. Mining can also undermine human rights by endangering people's basic needs and livelihoods, for example by polluting water and land. Additionally, communities in the area often do not economically benefit from mining. 'With our partners, we amplify the voice of people who stand up for nature and human rights, and advocate for stricter mining laws and regulations and their enforcement,' says Mark van der Wal, senior expert nature conservation at IUCN NL.

We call on the public and private sectors to ensure that the entire mineral and metal value chains of the energy transition are as responsible as possible in every part of the world. This means reusing and recycling as much as possible, no mining in vulnerable nature, and not harming the rights of local people, including their right to land and a clean and safe environment.

Watch the recording of the high-level debate on mining for the energy transition

 WATCH VIDEO

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about mineral mining and the energy transition? Check our [website](#) or contact Mark van der Wal. Email: mark.vanderwal@iucn.nl



A mine in the Philippines © Erwin Mascarinas NTFP-EP

Countries: **Madagascar • Comoros • Mauritius**

• the Seychelles

Partners

• SAF/FJKM • ID-ONG • FORENA • SeyCCAT

SDG • 2 • 3 • 5 • 6 • 7 • 13 • 14 • 15 • 16 • 17



Sakalava weaver on *Delonix floribunda*, Madagascar
© Andry Petignat Arboretum d Antsokay

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY ON MADAGASCAR AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS

Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands possess an astounding number of species, many of which only exist there (endemic species). Madagascar alone is home to over 11,000 endemic plant species, five families of birds, five families of primates, and two families of freshwater fish found nowhere else on the planet. In addition to its incredible species diversity, the hotspot provides millions of people with fresh water and other ecosystem services that are essential to their survival. Due to a.o. inappropriate agricultural practices, charcoal as principal fuel source for cooking and illegal timber and wildlife trade, the islands have a very high level of degraded natural ecosystems.

Supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), IUCN NL forms the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) together with partners from, Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius and the Seychelles. As a RIT, we support the development and oversight of a portfolio of 80 to 100 grants to non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, academic institutions, private companies and other organisations on the islands. In the last quarter of 2022, our first call for proposals was launched leading to roughly 60 applications for large grants and 160 for small grants.

ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

Mark van der Wal, senior expert nature conservation at IUCN NL, is coordinating the RIT. Mark explains: 'Healthy ecosystems such as intact forests, wetlands and coastal areas provide many benefits to local communities, including firewood, clean water, medicines, shelter, and food. In fact our economies and our wellbeing depends on healthy ecosystems. They can also form physical barriers against extreme weather events such as cyclones and storm surges. Biodiverse forests, for example, can protect roads and other infrastructure from erosion and landslides.'

CEPF wants to empower women, youth, communities, and civil society to improve the resilience of species, ecosystems, and humans to climate change. One of the investment priorities within this grants programme is therefore to implement Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) actions, including agroforestry and 'climate smart agriculture', eradication of invasive species, restoration of degraded watersheds, and coastal ecosystems, and promotion of sustainable management of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems.

What is Ecosystem-based Adaptation?

Shifting weather patterns as a result of climate change, affecting rainfall and temperature, are likely to impact the ecosystem goods and services such as clean water and food on which people rely. Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA), involving the conservation, sustainable management, and restoration of ecosystems can help people adapt to the impacts of climate change. EbA is a nature-based solution that harnesses biodiversity and ecosystem services to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to climate change.

● [Download our factsheet on EbA](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands? Check our [website](#) or contact one of the IUCN NL team members.



© Dahari

Countries **Europe • Bolivia • Colombia • DRC**

• Ghana • Indonesia • Philippines • Uganda

Partners

• **LILAK and 26 partners of Forests for a Just Future in 7 countries**



Nativa © Nembi Guasu

FORESTS AS ALLY AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Healthy forests and biodiversity are core in addressing the climate crisis and protecting human rights. Forests absorb carbon dioxide and protect us from the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, floods and droughts. At the same time, deforestation and forest degradation fuel climate change.

SDG • 5 • 12 • 13 • 15 • 16 • 17



The forest from Canopy Walkway

To end deforestation, we advocate for strict laws, regulations and compliance both nationally and internationally. An important outcome of joint civil society effort including IUCN NL in 2022 was that on December 6, the European Commission, Council and Parliament agreed on a regulation for deforestation free products. The regulation requires companies that market palm oil, soy, beef, leather, wood, cocoa or coffee in Europe to prove that no deforestation or forest degradation has taken place in the production of their products.

‘It is a major step forward to give a clear responsibility to traders and operators to ensure forest protection and legality in EU value chains,’ says Heleen van den Hombergh, senior advisor agro-commodities at IUCN NL. ‘Now it is key to build a toolbox for implementation, while adding other values of importance to the EU, including the responsible use of pesticides, soils and water, and respect for human, including labour rights.’

INCLUSIVE FOREST GOVERNANCE

It is estimated that 80% of the world’s remaining forest biodiversity lies within Indigenous Peoples’ territories, and Indigenous and community lands store at least 24% of the above-ground carbon in the world’s tropical forests.

In 15 key forest landscapes in 7 countries in Asia, Africa and South America we work with our partner CSOs, Indigenous organisations and women’s groups to strengthen inclusive forest governance that is led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCS) and enhance the enabling environment for civil society to do its work safely and effectively.

‘It is important that the rights of IP&LCS – especially women and young people – are recognised and respected, and that they play a greater role in policy and decision-making,’ Maartje Hiltermann, project leader of the Forests for a Just Future programme, adds.



Field visit © NTFP-EP Indonesia

INDIGENOUS WOMEN GROUPS DEFENDING THEIR FORESTS IN THE PHILIPPINES

For example in the Philippines, our partner LILAK addresses the human rights violations of Indigenous peoples and the many threats posed to their lands, rivers and forests. LILAK supports Indigenous women leaders in their struggle to defend indigenous women’s human rights and the natural resources that their communities depend on. In 2022, founder of LILAK Judy Pasimio was interviewed by [Vice Versa](#) global for their special on gender-based violence.

● [Read the interview](#)



MORE INFORMATION

Want to know more about our work for sustainable and inclusive forest governance? Check out our [website](#) or contact Maartje Hiltermann. Email: maartje.hiltermann@iucn.nl



'It is important that the rights of IP&LCS – especially women and young people – are recognised and respected, and that they play a greater role in policy and decision-making.'



Environmental justice & inclusion

Every person on earth has the right to a safe, healthy and sustainable living environment. Unfortunately, in many countries where we work this right is violated and for many people, Indigenous peoples and women in particular, standing up for these rights is not without risk. Together with our partners, we work to safeguard the right to a healthy environment for people and nature.

Partners

- A Rocha Ghana • Natura Bolivia • WACSI • WARSI
- Wilde Ganzen

CHANGE THE GAME ACADEMY: LOCAL ORGANISATIONS AS DRIVERS OF CHANGE

Trainings in three countries on three different continents. That is how the Strengthen the Roots project, developed by Wilde Ganzen and IUCN NL, started in the third quarter of 2022, with the goal to protect the habitat and natural resources of as many as 1 million persons.



Atewa © A Rocha Ghana

'Nature conservation benefits greatly from strong communities and grassroots initiatives,' says Evelien van den Broek, senior expert environmental justice at IUCN NL. 'With the [Strengthen the Roots](#) project we aim to strengthen local communities and their organisations living in or around threatened forests so that they can mobilise support for their work.'

Staff from our Bolivian partner organisation Natura Bolivia was trained in November 2022, using Wilde Ganzen's capacity-building methodology [Change the Game Academy](#). With their newly acquired knowledge, they will train small community organisations in the Gran Chaco region of Bolivia, where the conversion of forests into agricultural and cattle breeding land endangers the ancestral territory of the original inhabitants.

In Sumatra, Indonesia, staff members from KKI WARSI also received a 'training for trainers'. In 2023 they, in turn, will train communities in West Sumatra on local fund raising and mobilising support. With increased capacity, community-based organisations (forest management, social business and women groups) can be more effective in the management of the community forests and the development of social businesses.

In Ghana, WACSI and A Rocha Ghana are one step ahead of the partners in Bolivia and Indonesia. They already trained nine small nature conservancy organisations that are working to protect two landscapes that are under severe pressure: the Atewa forest and the Mole landscape.

Evelien says: 'Through targeted training residents of communities in these three countries will learn how to strengthen their capacity, raise more funds and develop better lobbying activities for the sake of protecting their natural and cultural wealth and boosting their well-being.'



Local Fundraising Training Ghana © A Rocha Ghana



Training Ghana © A Rocha Ghana



Atewa © A Rocha Ghana

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our Strengthen the Roots project? Check our [website](#) or contact Evelien van den Broek. Email: evelien.vandenbroek@iucn.nl



Country **Ghana**

SDG • 1 • 2 • 5 • 15

Partners

• A Rocha Ghana

WOMEN'S COOPERATIVE FOR SHEA WINS EQUATOR PRIZE

An Indigenous-women-led shea cooperative near Mole National Park became a successful business and won the prestigious [UNDP Equator Prize](#). This is a result of years of work by our partner organisation A Rocha Ghana, who established a number of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) around Mole National Park with support from IUCN NL.



Shea nut processing in the Mole Ecological Landscape
© A Rocha Ghana

Mole National Park in northern Ghana is the country's largest nature reserve. Since 2007, A Rocha Ghana has been working with communities to establish and strengthen a number of CREMAs. A CREMA is a land area for which communities agree to apply a set of local rules that aim for a more sustainable use of natural resources such as valuable trees. One of these trees is the shea tree, which produces a commercially highly valued oil.

'IUCN NL has supported and advised A Rocha on the development of CREMAs since the beginning, to ensure they have a positive impact on biodiversity and community livelihoods,' says Jan Kamstra of IUCN NL.

MICROCREDITS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A Rocha Ghana provided communities with microcredits, enabling people to start up small businesses. One of them was the Sunkpa Shea Women's Cooperative. The cooperative took a community-led approach to creating a sustainable and inclusive shea value chain that has provided economic opportunity to over 800 women within 12 communities. The shea tree provides diverse use and products. These include butter, fruits, and oil. Production and transformation is a crucial income generating activity for women.

ORGANIC SHEA

The women's cooperative uses an organic certification scheme, which means they receive premiums and can increase their incomes. Organic means that no pesticides are used. On top of this premium, the buying company also pays extra for the functioning of the CREMA.

Using this extra payment, the cooperative has led local initiatives that contribute to ecosystem restoration with indigenous tree species and mitigate wildfire risks in this drought prone region of Ghana. With these practices, the women are also contributing to the conservation of biodiversity.

IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

In partnership with Savannah Fruits Company, the cooperative has substantially improved their value addition capacity by making high-quality, organic shea butter and selling it directly to international buyers. 'As a result, employment and income in the women's villages have increased.

Sofia Abdulai, secretary of the Shea Women's Cooperative, says: 'When A Rocha Ghana and partners came to work with us, they supported us in trainings, built warehouses, a processing centre and helped us to register as a cooperative. We are really excited to know all these years are paying off.'

Watch the video showing the work and results of the Sunkpa Shea Women's Cooperative

 **WATCH VIDEO**

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about our work for community governance on our [website](#) or contact Jules Koppen. Email: jules.koppen@iucn.nl



Women from the Shea Women's Cooperative © A Rocha Ghana

TACKLING FOREST CRIME IN THE COLOMBIAN AMAZON

The Colombian Amazon, one of the most biodiverse regions in the world, is at risk. The surging demand for commodities such as beef, palm oil, gold, and illicit crops drive deforestation. This does not only threaten biodiversity, but also the Indigenous and local communities that have been living in these forests for generations. To safeguard the Amazon, we work to end forest crime and improve the territorial rights of the Amazonian people.



Deforestation in the Colombian Amazon © FCDS

Together with Colombian nature organisations FCDS and Ambiente y Sociedad and news platform Mongabay, we are committed to tackling forest crime in the Amazon forest, and to improve the territorial rights and livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and local communities. In 2022, IUCN NL started up research on drivers of deforestation, the dynamics of forest crime and illicit financial flows. These reports will be published in 2023.

DRIVERS OF DEFORESTATION

In a series of articles, we analysed the drives of deforestation in the Colombian Amazon. Liliana Jauregui, senior expert environmental justice at IUCN NL: 'Deforestation is a complex process that destroys ecosystems and threatens the human and environmental rights of Amazon communities. Deforestation also allows illegal markets to thrive. Cattle laundering, the main driver of deforestation in Colombia, enables illegal activities to become legal and covers up deforestation.'

Read the articles

- [land grabbing](#)
- [cattle ranching](#)
- [industrial agriculture](#)
- [illicit crops](#)
- [illegal logging](#)
- [mining and oil extraction](#)

THE ESZACÚ AGREEMENT AND INDIGENOUS RIGHTS

The [Escazú Agreement](#) is a political treaty in Latin America and the Caribbean to improve access to information, participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters. The agreement is ratified by 24 countries, including Colombia.

In August, our Colombian partner FCDS [organised a three-day seminar](#) on the protection of Indigenous peoples in the Amazon. One of the second day, Liliana highlighted the importance of including a gender perspective in the implementation of [Escazú Agreement](#). Women environmental human rights defenders, and in particular those from Indigenous communities, face even more obstacles and threats when protecting their land and natural resources.

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about our work in the Colombian Amazon on our [website](#) or contact Liliana Jauregui:

liliana.jauregui@iucn.nl



A staff member of FCDS during a field visit © FCDS



Cows in Colombia © Mariel Cabero

Partners• **ACEDH, IFAW**

© ACEDH

COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME IN VIRUNGA

Virunga National Park is one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet, but its wildlife is severely threatened by poaching and trafficking. From September 2020 through September 2022, IUCN NL, IFAW and local partner organisation ACEDH joint forces to fight poaching and trafficking of protected wildlife between Uganda and Democratic Republic of Congo.

‘Due to limited resources and insecurity in the area of Virunga, it is extra difficult for law enforcement officers to protect wildlife,’ says Paul Villaespesa, East Africa expert at IUCN NL. Through a combination of activities, [the project](#) strengthened the law enforcement for and protection of wildlife in the region of Virunga National Park in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We highlight two of these activities.

MOBILE HEARINGS

Together with Virunga Park and Virunga Foundation, ACEDH (Alerte Congolaise pour l’Environnement et les Droits de l’Homme) facilitated mobile hearings on wildlife crime in the villages around Virunga National Park.

‘Three mobile hearings increased awareness and provided access to public information to the people from the villages. The services of judges, lawyers, and public prosecutors enabled not only the punishment of wildlife crime, but they also shared the message of the fight against impunity among the community members, through more than 200 case exanimated,’ tells Oliver Ndoole of ACEDH.

SUPPORTING ARMED FORCES TO PROTECT WILDLIFE

The project also supported the armed forces. Through a collaboration with the provincial government authorities, 70 officers of these armed forces have been made aware of respect for environmental law in order to protect wildlife. Subsequently, 37 civil and military officers and magistrates were reinforced for application of the law on the protection of ecosystems and species of Virunga National Park.

THE RISKS OF COMBATING WILDLIFE CRIME

Combating wildlife crime in this part of the DRC is not without risks, states Oliver: ‘There is a clear link between wildlife trafficking and the instability in the region. The fight against wildlife crime exposes the defenders of nature to serious risks.’ The murder of two judicial military officers in 2021 emphasizes that, even though important steps have been made, the fight against wildlife crime in Virunga National Park must continue.

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about how we combat wildlife crime on our [website](#) or contact Paul Villaespesa: paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl



© ACEDH



Virunga National Park is one of the most biodiverse areas on the planet, but its wildlife is severely threatened by poaching and trafficking.



Trade & Finance

All over the world, biodiversity is increasingly under pressure from activities like mining and large-scale agriculture. Dutch companies and financial institutes are important actors in these extensive value chains. IUCN NL strives to reduce the footprint of the Dutch economy by making value chains greener and more sustainable. In doing so, we work with governments, companies and civil society organisations.

Partners

• ECOTRUST Uganda, A Rocha Ghana, Tropenbos International, WWF-NL and local NGOs, companies, investors and governments

SUPPORTING CLIMATE RESILIENT LANDSCAPES THROUGH BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT

Climate change has major consequences for people and nature. Many of the more vulnerable countries in the tropics lack the financial and other resources to adapt to climate change effects. Through our Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C) programme, we support social organisations and entrepreneurs in developing investable nature restoration projects contributing to climate mitigation and climate adaptation.



Landscapes meeting at the WWF-NL office

MoMo4C is a consortium of international and local NGOs working with social organisations and entrepreneurs in seven landscapes in Ghana, Indonesia, Cameroon, Zambia, and Uganda. We support them in developing projects for nature restoration contributing to climate mitigation and adaptation, and reach out to private and public investors. In addition to coordinating the MoMo4C consortium, IUCN NL works closely with A Rocha Ghana in the Mole landscape and ECOTRUST Uganda in Murchison-Semliki landscape.

MOBILISING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCE

‘The ambition to mobilise public and private finance for climate resilience and biodiversity in rural landscapes in developing countries inherently implies tackling many challenges,’ says Maxime Eiselin, senior expert nature-based solutions at IUCN NL. ‘By identifying business cases addressing the causes and impacts of climate change through both a top-down and bottom-up approach, the MoMo4C programme ensures that international and national climate finance reaches the local communities needing it the most. This requires creating the enabling conditions for investment, incubation, and acceleration of green business cases.’

GREEN BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

In November 2022, MoMo4C published a blueprint paper presenting the key lessons learnt based on the successes and challenges of the first two years of the programme. They concern the identification, incubation and acceleration of green business cases in the MoMo4C landscapes in Asian and African countries.

The MoMo4C approach to business case development entails four steps:

- 1 identifying business cases,
- 2 business incubation and acceleration,
- 3 creating access to investors,
- 4 scaling up to achieve impact on landscape level.

Each step contains lessons learnt to support investors, companies and civil society organisations in green business development.

● [Download the paper](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Would you like to know more about MoMo4C? Read more on our [website](#) or contact Maxime Eiselin: maxime.eiselin@iucn.nl



THE PROTEIN TRANSITION: A GUIDE TO RESPONSIBLE VALUE CHAINS

Proteins are important for our health, but our diet should not harm nature nor people in other parts of the world. A new balance of 60% plant-based and 40% animal proteins contributes to solutions to the climate and biodiversity crises; if these protein are produced responsibly. As part of the Forests for a Just Future programme, IUCN NL developed a practical guide to sustainable plant-based value chains that are important for the protein transition.



Soy beans © Julio Cesar Garcia

It is important that the transition to more plant-based protein in the human diet takes place with respect for nature and people. Especially now we want to scale up the protein transition,' says Heleen van den Hombergh, senior expert agro-commodities at IUCN NL.

REMOVING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS

How is water managed on an almond plantation? Do all employees peeling cashews nuts have adequate equipment to protect them from the poisonous shells? And what about the biodiversity in the area where the soy for human consumption comes from? Is there sufficient space for nature?

It is widely known there is strict control on organic food, but this is much less on the radar screen for responsible plant-based protein chains. According to Heleen, it is important to address both environmental and social risks. 'Our goal is to help companies and other chain players to remove the risks from these international chains, and to add as much positive value as possible to the landscapes where the ingredients come from. This way, we can jointly work on a diverse, international and sustainable protein transition.'



Cashew nuts © Getty Images



Soy beans in Bolivia © Neil Palmer

A PRACTICAL GUIDE

IUCN NL has published a practical guide for companies and other actors in the value chains, with factsheets of 16 plant-based proteins developed by AidEnvironment.

'Sustainable plant-based on a global scale - A guide to international chain management in the protein transition' is currently available in Dutch, the factsheets in English. The English version of the guide is expected to be published in the second half of 2023.

● [Download the guide and factsheets](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about our work on responsible value chains on our [website](#) or contact

Heleen van den Hombergh:
heleen.vandenhombergh@iucn.nl



Soy fields Bolivia © Neil Palmer

Partners

• GIZ • IUCN Ghana • A Rocha Ghana • Tropenbos Ghana

700 HECTARES OF DEGRADED NATURAL FOREST RESTORED IN GHANA

Deforestation due to charcoal production is a major driver of forest degradation in Ghana. Coordinated by GIZ, IUCN NL and its partners strive to prevent further landscape degradation. We do so by promoting sustainable charcoal production and by restoring 700 hectares of degraded natural forests.



Mole landscape © Jules Koppen

Our interventions targeted two areas; the forest zone around Kintampo, in central Ghana, which is known as the major charcoal hub, and the savannah zone bordering Mole National Park in the north where commercial charcoal production is a relatively new phenomenon.

WOODLOTS AND RESTORATION

As part of a more sustainable charcoal chain, woodlots were set up with 12 communities. For restoration we set up community-led tree nurseries for indigenous tree species and fruit trees like mango and cashew. Indigenous trees were planted in degraded forest areas while the fruit trees were part of the promotion of agroforestry as a more sustainable form of land use. A total of 500 hectares of natural forest was restored and 260 hectares of degraded farm land was converted to agroforestry.

‘We established three community tree nurseries and organised nursery training for over 80 people. A total of one million seedlings was raised. Work in the nurseries and the planting of trees generated important income for more than 3000 persons, especially for women,’ says Jan Kamstra, who led the project on behalf of IUCN NL.

PROTECTING FORESTS FROM FIRES

A major threat to our interventions are the annual forest fires, caused by charcoal production, farming and hunting. Hence, we supported communities in fire prevention and suppression. We trained and equipped 170 fire volunteers, developed fire prevention programmes and provided partners with weekly satellite data on locations with increased fire risk. To raise awareness of the threats of fires



Ghanese women © IUCN Ghana

for forests among the younger generation, IUCN NL published an interactive children’s book with illustrations from a Ghanaian artist.

MONITORING BY COMMUNITIES

For longer term sustainability, monitoring protocols were developed and we introduced new tools like drones and camera traps. This helped communities in checking on threats and will enable them to follow developments on the longer term. The data supports communities in a better control over and management of their natural resources.

- [Read more about community-led biodiversity monitoring](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Read more about our project for sustainable charcoal and forest restoration in Ghana on our [website](#) or contact Jules Koppen.

Email: jules.koppen@iucn.nl



Mole landscape © Jules Koppen



ABOUT US



IUCN NL team © Bettina Traas

WHO WE ARE

In 2022, 28 passionate employees (27.21 FTEs) worked in our office in the centre of Amsterdam. Our experts are trained in various disciplines, ranging from ecology to human rights and from communication to finance. They have a wide range of work experience, from fieldwork to scientific research, and from NGOs to businesses. All these different backgrounds provide diverse perspectives on solutions to the challenges of our time. We value this diversity of views, just as we embrace the different opinions among our Dutch member organisations and in the global union.

DIVERSITY & INCLUSIVENESS

We see diversity and inclusiveness as a great good. We are proud of the diversity of our workforce. The age range of our employees spans almost 40 years: with ages from 23 to 64. We have policies to promote and monitor gender equality, for example, in the areas of performance management and recruitment & selection. We strive for an equal gender balance in all layers of the organisation. In 2022, we employed 20 women and 17 men. Thanks to targeted HR policies and more awareness, we improved the gender balance in leadership positions. The balance at the top of the organisation has been slightly improved: our management team consists of two women and three men (was one woman and three men); in 2022, the Supervisory Board consisted of two women, including the chair, and four men.

Do you want to know more about our approach to gender equality?

● [Download our gender strategy](#)

INTEGRITY

Integrity is essential for achieving our goals and maintaining professional relationships with civil society organisations. This means we take strong action against breaches of integrity, and actively work to reduce the likelihood of such breaches. Our integrity officer and two confidential counsellors play an important role in this matter.

Following the abuses in various sectors we held a number of group discussions on social safety at the office in 2022. We have found that being in regular conversation with each other on integrity issues makes it easier to state one's own boundaries and be considerate of each other. To be continued in 2023!

CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Travel

Our office is within walking distance of metro and tram stops. In principle, it is not allowed to use own motorised transport for commuting, for which no reimbursement is provided either. Commuting expenses by public transport, on the other hand, are reimbursed 100% and there is an allowance for cyclists.

IUCN NL saved 12 tons of CO₂ by traveling by train in 2022. This is the equivalent of about 500 trees.

Part of our work involves travelling to our partners in the Global South with whom we work on project implementation. While we keep this to a minimum, it cannot be completely eliminated. To minimise our footprint here too, our travel policy is clear on this: wherever possible, we travel by train, especially within Europe. Our new travel agency Diversity Travel has been a carbon-neutral company since 2011, having achieved the Carbon Neutral PA 2060 Standard. They achieved the ISO 14001 Environmental Management Standard in 2008 and have maintained this certification ever since.

Through World Land Trust, we offset our travel, including commuting, energy consumption and other emissions, including working from home, at Viet Nature Conservation Centre in Vietnam's Dong Chau-Khe Nuoc Trong Forest. The project aims to protect biodiversity by reducing illegal wildlife hunting while supporting the natural regeneration of degraded areas in the 21,127 ha Khe Nuoc Trong Forest by establishing it as a nationally recognised protected area.

Office

The office in which we are housed is a listed building. Our landlord, also a 'green organisation', is making all kinds of efforts to make the building more sustainable within the laws and regulations for monuments. This is done in small steps and requires patience.

Within our office walls, we started corporate responsibility years ago and improve it wherever possible. For example, for office catering, we order only vegetarian lunches or snacks, and increasingly vegan ones as well. We choose organic and/or locally produced products. The milk, tea, sugar, and milk and chocolate powder in the coffee machine are organic. We use oat milk as coffee creamer. We buy the coffee beans from Café del Mar, which supplies fair trade coffee in cooperation with NGO Solidaridad. From every kilo of coffee (beans) sold, Café del Mar donates € 0,75 to Solidaridad's projects on behalf of

the customer. We also chose Café del Mar because of its social commitment: the stickers are applied by people with a mental disability.

When we rent a meeting room with catering, we also pay attention to choosing organic and/or local products. We ask for jugs of tap water instead of bottled water, and no individually packaged biscuits, sugar and milk.

Procurement

The procurement of office supplies is circular or sustainably produced as much as possible. Our supplier is Product for Product. For every 100 euros spent, we receive 1 green point that we can exchange for sustainable initiatives. For example, 2,5 points can be used to plant a tree.

Our copier is a refurbished machine. This Ricoh machine meets our environmental requirements: energy-efficient, low toner use, reduced emissions and built where possible by reusing materials for plastic parts, metal and electronics. An additional positive aspect is that Green Netherlands is a sponsor of two charities: Trees for all and Save the Children. The toner is collected and retrieved by Eeko. They donate to Opkikker, a foundation that organises activities for long-term sick children. Old mobile phones go to Stichting Aap.

Waste

Waste separation is partially successful. We have too little VGF waste and residual waste to be attractive to suppliers who collect them separately. Waste paper is collected separately, bottles go in the bottle bank and batteries in special bins. In 2023, we will continue to find out whether we can separate our plastic waste from VGF waste. To reduce the number of waste bags, we have reduced the number of bins.

Our office is cleaned by cleaning company Dictum that uses only biodegradable products.

All Ahrend A230 office chairs have Cradle to Cradle certification. When we need a new chair, it is purchased second-hand from Welltrade or the upholstery is renewed. Lighting in the office has almost all been replaced by LED lamps. The fire extinguishers are filled with an ecological extinguishing agent, although we hope never to need it.

We have set the following targets for 2023:

- 1 Climate-neutral office: do circular scan of the office footprint and look at our digital emissions.
- 2 Improve waste streams.
- 3 Paper processing will be done by Beelen, a partner of Product for Product. The paper will then be processed in a factory from which circular products can again be made and sold on Product for Product's website.
- 4 List our suppliers and see how they deal with their footprint and what actions they take.

OUR STRATEGY

OUR GOAL:

To safeguard nature as the basis for all life on earth.

FROM 2020 TO 2024 INCLUSIVE, OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES ARE:



A GLOBAL UNION

IUCN NL is part of the world's largest and oldest union for nature conservation: the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). IUCN brings together the global experience, knowledge and network of 1,400 governments, civil society organisations, knowledge institutions, and over 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of nature and the required conservation measures.

Thanks to its unique composition, IUCN provides a neutral platform for working on solutions to the most pressing global problems such as the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems, climate change and poverty. The latest scientific insights and practical experience form the basis for these activities. IUCN's international headquarters are based in Gland, Switzerland.

In the Netherlands, IUCN NL serves as the platform for 38 IUCN member organisations, which form the National Committee of The Netherlands, including large and small-scale nature organisations, the Dutch government and knowledge institutions.

Over 15,000 scientists and experts from around the world and across a wide range of disciplines volunteer their expertise as members of one of the seven [IUCN Commissions](#). In 2022, this included 133 scientists and experts from the Netherlands. IUCN Commissions are broad and active networks of scientists and experts providing IUCN and its Members with sound know-how and policy advice to drive conservation and sustainable development.

IUCN NL actively cooperates with local organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America, Dutch member organisations and other parts of IUCN to safeguard important nature and biodiversity in those regions. Together, we develop international cooperation programmes and attract funding from various donors.

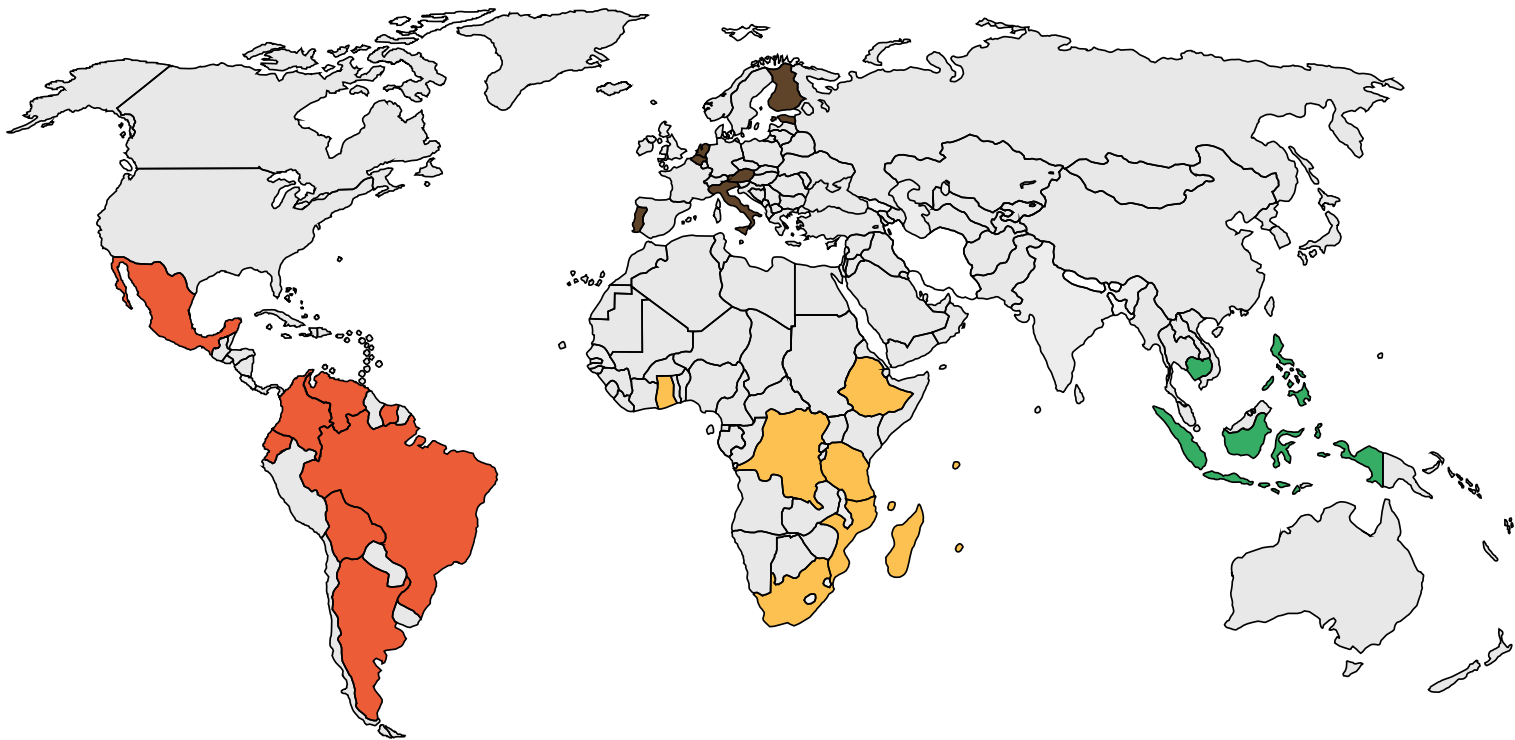
Website <https://www.iucn.nl>

 <https://twitter.com/IUCNNL>

 <https://www.instagram.com/iucnnl/>

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In 2022, we worked with our partners in **10 countries in Africa**, **3 in Asia**, **8 in Latin America**, **7 in Europe**.



Latin America

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Colombia
Ecuador
Mexico
Suriname
Venezuela

Africa

Comoros
Congo (D. Rep.)
Ghana
Madagascar
Mauritius
Mozambique
Uganda
Seychelles
South Africa
Tanzania

Europe

Austria
Belgium
Estonia
Finland
Italy
The Netherlands
Portugal

Asia

Cambodia
Philippines
Indonesia

COLOPHON

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