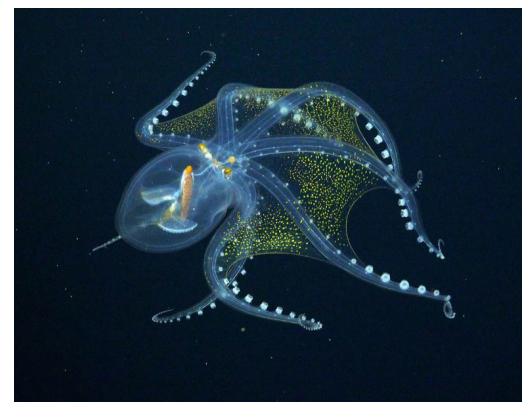
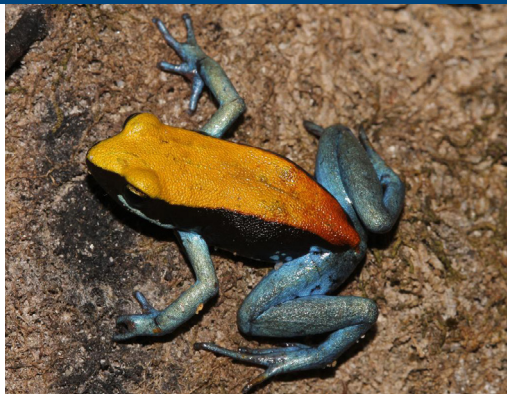


# ANNUAL REPORT 2024

**IUCN NL**



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# FOREWORD

As we enter a new year, we reflect with pride on the resilience and achievements of our team and partners. The 1st of January 2025 marked a leadership transition at IUCN NL, with Liliana Jauregui stepping into the role of director, succeeding Coenraad Krijger after eight years of committed leadership. We thank Coenraad for his contributions and look forward to building on the foundation he helped establish.

Reversing biodiversity loss is more urgent than ever. Ecosystems worldwide face immense pressure from habitat destruction, climate change, and wildlife crime. At IUCN NL, we are committed to safeguarding nature as the foundation of all life. In collaboration with Dutch IUCN members and over 100 environmental civil society organisations across Africa, Asia, and Latin America, we champion locally-led conservation efforts driven by civil society. In 2024, we refined our strategy to guide our mission for the next three years.

Despite mounting challenges, 2024 brought significant progress. We financed 72 initiatives led by local environmental organisations across 21 countries, investing €2,943,615 in conservation efforts. Through the Green Livelihoods Alliance, 34 million hectares are now under sustainable forest management. Meanwhile, our Land Acquisition Fund — celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2025 — enabled five new land acquisition and long-term lease projects, securing 49,454 hectares of critical habitat for endangered species in five countries.

Our regranting programmes also made a meaningful impact. In 2024, €550,000 was allocated through BESTLIFE2030 to protect and restore nature in the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Additionally, through the CEPF programme, 25 nature organisations in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands received support to strengthen their conservation efforts.



Blue-tailed Day Gecko (*Phelsuma cepediana*) © O. Langrand

On the global stage, 2024 was a pivotal year for biodiversity governance. At the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) in Colombia, we participated in the Dutch delegation and organised well-attended side events. Landmark decisions, such as the establishment of the ‘Cali Fund’ and a permanent subsidiary body for Indigenous peoples, underscored a growing global commitment to protecting nature.

Together with our local partners, we continue to strengthen the rights of environmental defenders and Indigenous peoples, for example through the Green Livelihoods Alliance, the Green Lifeline Action Fund, and projects in the Colombian and Peruvian Amazon.

In the Netherlands, we continued driving innovation with initiatives like the National Dashboard Biodiversity and our role in the NL2120 programme, one of the world’s largest public-private partnerships in nature-based solutions.

None of these achievements would have been possible without the commitment of our financial and local partners, the dedication of our staff, and the collaboration of IUCN members and partners.

A key milestone in our partnerships was the successful evaluation and renewal of our five-year partnership with the Dutch Postcode Lottery, extending our valued collaboration to 25 years.

As we look ahead to 2025, we remain committed to our vision of a just world in which nature is valued and protected.

Liliana Jauregui, Director  
Angélique Laskewitz, Chair Supervisory Board



Angélique Laskewitz



Liliana Jauregui

At IUCN NL, we are committed to safeguarding nature as the foundation of all life.

2024 IN A  
NUTSHELL

**34** million hectares under sustainable forest management within the Green Livelihoods Alliance, with our direct support.



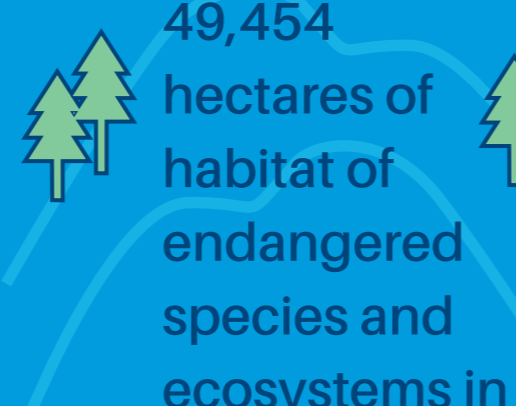
**Financed 72** initiatives of local environmental organisations in **21 countries** for €2,943,615.



**Mobilising More** for Climate attracted investments worth of **€19,481,210** between 2019 and 2024.



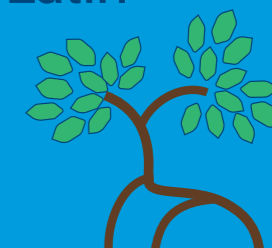
**5** new nature conservation projects securing 49,454 hectares of habitat of endangered species and ecosystems in 5 countries.



The Land Acquisition Fund enabled

2024 IN A  
NUTSHELL

The Green Lifeline Action Fund granted **22 requests** for emergency funding of **14 NGOs** in **14 countries** in Asia, Latin America, and Africa.



**15** policy changes to safeguard nature within the Green Livelihoods Alliance, with our direct support.



**25** organisations in Madagascar, the Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles supported with CEPF grants for ecosystem-based adaptation and conservation projects based on our assessments.



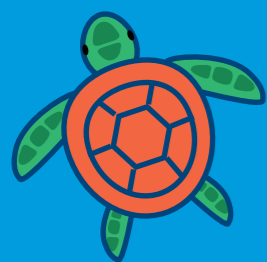
**37,315 visitors** for the Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity since its launch in May 2024.

Our website welcomed around **94,000 visitors** in 2024.



2024 IN A  
NUTSHELL

The Green Livelihoods Alliance provided **€36,283** in emergency funds to 11 environmental organisations for urgent natural disaster relief and legal support to environmental defenders.



Over **€550,000** granted to protect and restore nature in Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through BESTLIFE2030.

Supported **7** companies in launching biodiversity projects low and middle income countries through the Netherlands Enterprise Agency's 'Green Support to SDGP-Projects'.

Assisted the **Ministry of LNV** in collecting biodiversity commitments from around 100 organisations for the **Dutch National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)**.



Developed a **monitoring framework for nature-inclusive practices** across 10 business domains as part of Collectief Natuurinclusief.

THE GREEN  
LIVELIHOODS  
ALLIANCE

## THE GREEN LIVELIHOODS ALLIANCE: 4 YEARS OF SAFEGUARDING TROPICAL FORESTS

The Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) is a collaboration between IUCN NL, Gaia Amazonas, Milieudefensie, NTFP-EP, SDI, Tropenbos International, and Fern and WECF as technical partners. GLA's Forests for a Just Future programme aims to promote sustainable and inclusive governance of tropical rainforests in areas where the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and local communities are threatened by the expansion of agriculture, infrastructure or mining.

2025 marks the final year of the programme, below we showcase the achievements from the past four years.

Funded over **80** civil society organisations in South America, Africa, and Asia.



**34** million hectares under sustainable forest management.



Engaged 192,000 people from Indigenous and local communities.



**293** policy changes to safeguard nature.



IUCN NL provided **€130,370** in emergency funds to 33 requests from environmental organisations to provide urgent natural disaster relief and legal support to environmental defenders.

**€8,9 million** in income  
**€8,4 million** in expenditure

► More detailed financial information can be found in the financial report 2024 that will be published on our website in June 2025.

**Note 1** • Preliminary figures. Financial data on 2024 to be confirmed in May 2025, following audit and Supervisory Board approval.

## NEWLY APPROVED PROJECTS

New

Green Lifeline Action Fund | **€600,000** | Sub3 | 2024 - 2025

Empowering indigenous governance in Nembi Guasu and Yande Yari | **€287,652** | DOB Ecology | 2025-2029

CSOs standing shoulder to shoulder in defence of forest livelihoods | **€105,225** | European Commission - NDICI CSO | 2024 - 2027

Isoso wetlands as an indigenous conservation area | **€100,000** | DOB Ecology | 2024

Knowledge programme Basic Quality of Nature (BKN) | **€76,560** | Ministry of Agriculture, Fishery, Food security and Nature | 2024 - 2028

Blue carbon credits Benin - amendment | **USD 70,000** | UNEP | 2024-2025

Renewable Energy Covenant - additional activities | **€38,700** | RVO | 2024 - 2025

Strengthening community-based peat forest management in Indonesia | **€35,000** | NWO - Regieorgaan SIA | 2024 - 2026

Entrepreneurs for Nature Fund | **€16,000** | Corporate donations

Next to these new projects, in 2024 we also acquired six new short-term consultancy assignments with a total income of **€237,338**.

A full list of our financing partners can be found on our [website](#).

2024 IN A NUTSHELL

## Platform for 37 IUCN member organisations in the Netherlands

### Supervisory board:

- Angélique Laskewitz (Chair)
- Franc van den Berg (Vice-Chair)
- Luc Bas
- Daan van Cann
- Louise van Schaik (since 1 April 2024)
- Teo Wams

### Management team:

- Coenraad Krijger (Director)
- Cas Besselink
- Liliana Jauregui

► As of 1 January 2025, Liliana Jauregui became the new Director of IUCN NL. Liliana succeeded Coenraad Krijger, who has led IUCN NL for over eight years. Starting 1 January 2025, the management team was further strengthened by Verian Klarus, who focuses on IUCN NL's work in the Netherlands and Europe, ensuring it is firmly anchored at the management level.

**32 employees**  
(28.53 FTEs)



57.6% female  
42.4% male



**2 employees and 10 interns** joined IUCN NL

**4 employees** left the organisation

Average age: **40**  
(youngest employee **22**, oldest employee **66**)

January 2024

11 January

The midterm review [shows](#) that the Forests for a Just Future programme by the Green Livelihoods Alliance is progressing well in all areas of its Theory of Change.

16 January

Land Acquisition Fund [announces the projects](#) selected in 2023.



Blue-billed curassow, endemic to Colombia © SOC

21 February

MoMo4C [publishes a paper](#) examining the effectiveness, opportunities, and risks of NbS initiatives.

26 February

Criminal network in illegal wildlife trade in the Netherlands and EU is [exposed](#).

27 February

Nature Restoration Law adopted by European Parliament; an essential step towards the recovery of European ecosystems.

29 February

Seminar Bottom Line! on a just energy transition takes place, in collaboration with VBDO.

5 February

IUCN NL and [reNature selected for assignment](#) titled 'Green Support to SDGP-projects' by the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO).

14 February

First meeting with project partners of [Mono Delta Benin project](#) in Benin.

5 March

Amazon Rights in Focus [shares the first results](#) of a study on gender dynamics in the Colombian Amazon.

6 March

Three provincial governments in the Philippines establish the Mt Buluan [Protected Watershed](#), protecting 8,000+ hectares from destructive activities.

7 March

MoMo4C [contributes](#) to transforming gender norms and reducing gender-based violence in Uganda.

8 March

[Interview with IUCN Director General Dr. Grethel Aguilar](#) published, in honour of International Women's Day.

12 March

[REWET emphasises](#) the important role of the EU Member States in implementing the Nature Restoration Law.

15 March

Investors around the world sign a [statement](#) calling for responsible nickel mining.

1 April

Start of the [NL2120](#) knowledge and innovation programme on nature-based solutions.

1 April

Louise van Schaik joins IUCN NL's supervisory board.

5 April

The Land Acquisition Fund enables the Alliance for Tompotika Conservation to [secure 24 hectares on Sulawesi](#).

17 april

[Duurzaam Regeerakkoord](#) presented to Dutch House of Representatives, co-signed by IUCN NL.

22 april

IUCN NL [co-organises a webinar](#) on generating safe and enabling environments for women environmental defenders in Latin America during the COP3 of the Escazú Agreement.

24 april

Action plan on environmental human rights defenders [approved at the Escazú COP3 in Chile](#).

7 May

IUCN [report](#), with contributions of IUCN NL, finds that better production practices are key to minimising the impact of vegetable oils.

17 May

REWET published policy brief [The EU road towards healthy wetlands](#).



Weerribben Wieden © Nadine Kliffen IUCN NL

22 May

Launch of [the Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity](#), tracking the Netherlands' biodiversity targets and indicating necessary adjustments.

5 June

The Green Elections Debate, co-hosted by IUCN NL, sees European Parliament members debate climate justice and agricultural subsidies ahead of the elections.

10 June

Land Acquisition Fund shares [new project](#) in Uganda protecting endangered cycads.

14 June

[Amazon Rights in Focus publishes a video](#) and compilation of articles on drivers of deforestation in the Colombian Amazon.

19 June

The [Global Species Action Plan](#), a collaboration between IUCN and its members, is introduced.

20 June

IUCN Red List update indicates the return of the European Lynx from threatened to vulnerable, while the Bornean elephant moves to a threatened status.

20 June

IUCN NL and partners organise [a panel discussion](#) at the Third Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding in The Hague.

2 July

[Study identifies](#) 16,825 unprotected sites where prioritising conservation actions would prevent the extinction of thousands of species.

30 July

[A milestone](#) in Indigenous-led nature conservation: Charagua Iyambae Protected Areas Law.

31 July

The Charagua Iyambae Indigenous government in Bolivia approves the [management plan](#) for the Ñembi Guasu conservation area.



Jaguar in Nembi Guasu Trapcam image © NATIVA

1 August

IUCN NL welcomes [two new member organisations](#): the European Foundation for Falconry and Conservation (EFFC) and The Ocean Cleanup.



1 September

Start of Knowledge Programme [Basic Quality of Nature \(BKN\)](#), committed to improving conditions for general species in the Netherlands in urban and rural areas.

17 September

Global Witness [reports](#) 196 environmental defenders killed in 2023, with Colombia topping the list.

27 September

IUCN National Red List workshop takes place in Brussels.

30 September - 3 October

IUCN Regional Conservation Forum Europe in Brugge.

15 October

IUCN NL and partners [organise a side event](#) on women environmental human rights defenders at the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum South America in Santa Marta

22 - 31 October

IUCN NL attends the CBD COP16, themed 'Peace with Nature', in Cali, Colombia with a variety of side events.

23 October

Dutch Postcode Lottery extends collaboration with [IUCN NL](#) for another five years, continuing a partnership of over 25 years.

28 October

Red List update: more than one in three tree species faces [extinction](#).



Flower of *Magnolia quatapensis*, Colombia © Salvamontes Colombia

5 November

The DRC [cancels controversial oil block auction](#) after pressure from IUCN NL's local partners.

7 November

The Collaborative Soy Initiative [launches](#) 'Compliant Soy with Impact: Guiding companies through the guidelines V2'.

13 November

Red List update: over 40 percent of coral species [face extinction](#).

14 November

MoMo4C announces that the programme [will continue](#) its work in 2025 with a one-year extension.

22 November

NL2120 awarded Grote Maaskant Prize.

26 November

Bottom Line! Breakfast session with Ministries, with Natuur & Milieu.

26 November

Three young rangers [complete their training](#) with support from Virunga Youth: Actors of Hope.

28 November

Liliana Jauregui announced as new director of IUCN NL, succeeding Coenraad Krijger.

4 December

Green Livelihoods Alliance [appeals](#) to Minister for Foreign Trade and Development to draft new policy that strengthens civil society, essential for foreign trade and development cooperation.

13 December

IUCN addresses the International Court of Justice in historic proceedings, advising that states have a legal obligation to address the global climate crisis and curb emissions.

16 December

Land Acquisition Fund ambassador Arjan Dwarshuis [has raised over 9,000 euro](#) to support the work of conservationists around the globe.

20 December

[Nembi Guasu](#) publishes the main results of a qualitative transdisciplinary study on youth, climate change, and mental health.

18 December

IPBES reports: halting biodiversity loss is more urgent than ever, yet also possible through an integral approach to policy.

Timeline 2024

IUCN NL

12

Annual report 2024

IUCN NL

13

Annual report 2024



# CONSERVATION HEROES



## Tiana Andriamanana

**Country: Madagascar**

For over fifteen years, Tiana's organisation Fanamby has helped local communities transition to more sustainable forms of agriculture, and preserve Madagascar's unique nature. Today, Fanamby manages over 590,000 hectares of protected areas.

[Read more](#)



## Odette Curtis-Scott

**Country: South Africa**

Odette has dedicated close to twenty years of her life to the preservation of the rare renosterveld ecosystem. Her organisation Overberg Renosterveld Conservation Trust now protects over 4,600 hectares of renosterveld. [Read more](#)



## Natalia Fuentes and Felipe Alfonso-Cortes

**Country: Ecuador**

Natalia and Felipe are passionate about the conservation of primates. Through their organisation Proyecto Washu, they work to protect Ecuador's endangered primates, while also providing local communities with sustainable livelihoods.

[Read more](#)



## Natalia Gutierrez Salgado and Sebastian Vidal Diaz

**Country: Chile**

For Natalia and Sebastian, it was love at first sight when they first saw the Altiplano plains in northern Chile. Now, they work endlessly to protect this ecosystem through their foundation Aka Pacha, collaborating closely with the Indigenous Aymara people. [Read more](#)



## Sian Owen

**Country: Netherlands**

Sian Owen has over twenty years of experience in the field of ocean conservation. Now, as chair of the Deep Sea Conservation Coalition (DSCC), she has committed herself to the preservation of the deep ocean, in the face of the growing threat of deep-sea mining. [Read more](#)

# IUCN National Committee of the Netherlands and nature policy

IUCN NL represents IUCN in the Netherlands and serves as the platform for Dutch members of IUCN. We work together to safeguard nature and biodiversity, in the Netherlands and beyond. In 2024, IUCN had 37 members in the Netherlands. We facilitate knowledge sharing and promote the joint defence of shared interests. In 2024, we engaged with members, experts and politicians in the lead up to the 16th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity (CBD COP16), which we developed together with members, was launched as an important tool in monitoring national progress on biodiversity targets.



[Avalon](#)  
[Bears in mind](#)  
[Black Jaguar Foundation](#)  
[Both Ends](#)  
[Carmabi](#)  
[Chimbo Foundation](#)  
[Commonland](#)  
[DCNA](#)  
[EAZA](#)  
[EFFC](#)  
[Floron](#)  
[IBED](#)  
[IFAW](#)  
[KNNV](#)  
[LandschappenNL](#)  
[Leo Foundation](#)  
[Milieudefensie](#)  
[Naturalis](#)  
[Natuur & Milieu](#)  
[Natuurmonumenten](#)

[NVBT](#)  
[Nederlandse Vereniging van Dierentuinen](#)  
[The Ocean Cleanup](#)  
[Ouwehand Zoo Foundation](#)  
[Prince Bernard Chair](#)  
[Rewilding Europe](#)  
[RAVON](#)  
[Rijksoverheid](#)  
[Staatsbosbeheer](#)  
[SOVON](#)  
[Van Tienhoven Foundation](#)  
[De Vlinderstichting](#)  
[Vogelbescherming](#)  
[Waddenvereniging](#)  
[Wetlands International](#)  
[WWF-NL](#)  
[Zoogdiervvereniging](#)



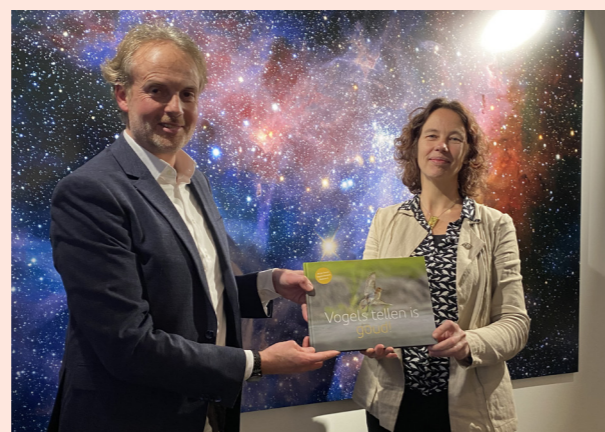
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 5 • goal 14 • goal 15 • goal 17



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
[all](#)

# IUCN IN THE NETHERLANDS: KNOWLEDGE AND POLICY FOR NATURE

IUCN NL serves as the platform for Dutch members of IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the largest and oldest union for nature conservation in the world. In 2024, we attended the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum for Europe, North and Central Asia together with a number of Dutch members. Furthermore, we supported advocacy by members towards the agreement on the European Nature Restoration Law, which was passed in June 2024.



National meeting March 2024-Coenraad Krijger & Dianne Nijland (Sovon) © IUCN NL

**D**uring two well-attended national meetings, Dutch IUCN members delved into the subject of biodiversity monitoring as well as the European Nature Restoration Law and its implementation in the Netherlands. 'One of the members, the Institute for Biodiversity and Ecosystem Dynamics of the University of Amsterdam, hosted our first members meeting this year. They told members about their work with Naturalis to identify and monitor species using new technologies,' says Marianne de Beer of IUCN NL.

## EUROPEAN NATURE RESTORATION LAW

In August 2024, after a tumultuous trajectory, the [European Nature Restoration Law](#) entered into force. Each EU member state has two years to submit a national restoration plan to the European Commission. 'The Netherlands also has to submit a national restoration plan, so the implementation of the law is very relevant to our members. After a presentation by experts from Natuurmonumenten and WWF-NL, members discussed their involvement in the laws' implementation, including in monitoring and restoring Dutch biodiversity,' says De Beer.



Regional Conservation Forum Brugge © Wim De Wulf IUCN

## IUCN REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM FOR EUROPE, NORTH, AND CENTRAL ASIA

Every four years, in the lead-up to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) provides a unique platform for IUCN Members in Europe, North, and Central Asia to exchange ideas, network and set the agenda for nature. The RCF took place in Brugge, where 400 participants joined session key topics like integrating nature into our economies, creating nature-positive food systems, addressing the climate crisis and restoring ecosystems.

Several Dutch members as well as IUCN NL colleagues participated and contributed to the dialogue, for example by organising side events on topics like nature-based solutions, mining for the energy transition, and human-wildlife conflict.

● [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](mailto:Marianne.debeer@iucn.nl)**





**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 2 • goal 3 • goal 14 • goal 15



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
all

# IUCN NL AT THE UN BIODIVERSITY SUMMIT (CBD COP16) IN COLOMBIA

In 2022, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was agreed upon to halt global biodiversity loss. In 2024, the 16th Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP16) took place in Cali, Colombia. There, countries came together to review progress and take further steps in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF). IUCN NL attended the conference, where we organised and supported a number of side events and closely followed the negotiations.

**T**his conference in Colombia was an important opportunity to assess where we stand in implementing our biodiversity targets. The extent to which the targets will be met will depend on the ambition and speed with which the agreements in the KM-GBF are transposed into national laws, regulations, and other policies that ensure concrete action and change. Therefore, all parties to the CBD are obliged to submit a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).

The Netherlands failed to submit an NBSAP before the start of COP16, [leading IUCN NL to openly express our concern](#). 'Without a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that fully embraces the 23 targets, sufficient resources to support them, and a robust monitoring system to measure progress, the Netherlands cannot achieve the necessary changes for biodiversity restoration,' says Marianne de Beer, public affairs advisor at IUCN NL.



COP16 plenary November 1st 2024 © UN Biodiversity,  
[Attribution \(CC BY 2.0\)](#)

## IUCN NL AT COP16

Multiple IUCN NL colleagues attended COP16 to present and share the work of IUCN NL during various side events. The side events focused on numerous critical topics, including the protection of environmental defenders, gender-responsive territorial strategies, a just energy transition, and locally-driven business cases for nature and climate. The overarching theme of COP16 was 'Peace with Nature'. IUCN NL's contributions emphasised safeguarding vulnerable natural areas and supporting Indigenous peoples and local communities. The events provided a platform for exchanging knowledge and best practices and showcased IUCN NL's contribution to the biodiversity targets.

● [Read more about our side event on empowering women environmental defenders](#)



The IUCN NL team at the COP16 in Cali © IUCN NL



COP16 Cali, Bottom Line! event © IUCN NL

## HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENTS DESPITE INSUFFICIENT TIME

Historic achievements were made at COP16. A new fund, the 'Cali Fund', was established for digital sequence information, with companies in relevant industries contributing a portion of their profits or revenue. A permanent subsidiary body on Indigenous peoples and local communities under the CBD was created to ensure their participation in the KM-GBF. Additionally, COP16 introduced an updated process for identifying ecologically or biologically significant marine areas to enhance marine biodiversity protection and support the 30x30 protected areas target.

Unfortunately, on the last day of COP16, negotiators ran out of time and could not agree on three key decisions, which is why COP16 resumed in Rome in February 2025, where countries managed to reach an agreement on the funding and monitoring the implementation of the KM-GBF.

## MORE INFORMATION

**Do you want to learn more about IUCN NL's work for nature policy? Check out our [website](#) or contact Marianne de Beer. Email: [Marianne.debeer@iucn.nl](mailto:Marianne.debeer@iucn.nl)**



# IPBES: URGENT ACTION ON BIODIVERSITY LOSS IS NEEDED AND ACHIEVABLE

In December 2024, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) published two reports that emphasise that urgent action is needed to halt biodiversity loss. In the reports, the IPBES calls on governments worldwide to develop cohesive policies addressing biodiversity loss, water, food, and health in the light of climate change. For the Netherlands, where challenges like the nitrogen crisis and flood risks strain both people and nature, the reports offer a roadmap towards a sustainable future.

The reports provide an extensive overview of current knowledge, as well as actionable tools for driving sustainable transformation. With over 400 case studies showcasing successful initiatives worldwide, the reports highlight how collaborative, context-specific actions can deliver positive outcomes for both nature and people in under a decade.

Dutch projects such as the Marker Wadden are highlighted as examples of transformative change. This ambitious ecological restoration initiative involves constructing artificial islands to enhance biodiversity and improve water quality. This project has led to the return of numerous bird species and raised public awareness about the importance of nature restoration in the Netherlands.



Marker Wadden, the Netherlands © IUCN NL

## BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

Maxime Eiselin, Senior Expert Nature-based Solutions: ‘The IPBES findings are particularly relevant for the Netherlands, where issues such as intensive agriculture, water scarcity, and nitrogen pollution severely impact ecosystems and public health. A holistic approach is essential; addressing these issues in isolation is ineffective, given how interconnected land use, agriculture, and water management are in the Netherlands. Restoring biodiversity is the foundation for solving the other crises. For instance, without freshwater biodiversity the requirements from the Water Framework Directive cannot be realised’.

The reports plead for integrated solutions and policies that address systemic pressures on biodiversity. This includes rethinking economic systems and fostering a stronger relationship with nature. Both governments and businesses play a critical role in promoting a nature-inclusive society and establishing sustainable frameworks for future generations.

- [Read more about the IPBES Nexus Assessment](#)
- [Read more about the IPBES Transformative Change Assessment](#)

By adopting IPBES recommendations and enacting transformative changes across all sectors, the Netherlands can move towards a future that balances economic prosperity, ecological resilience, and public health. While the country is not yet on track to meet its 2030 biodiversity goals, the IPBES reports offer a beacon of hope, showing that within a decade, meaningful progress is possible through collective effort.

## DUTCH IPBES FOCAL POINT

IPBES is an independent body that was created by more than 130 countries and several UN agencies with the aim to bring together scientific knowledge and policy to better protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystems. IUCN and IPBES both aim to bridge the gap between scientific research and policymaking, guiding decision-makers in governments and organisations.

Commissioned by the Directorate-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security, and Nature, IUCN NL, together with Naturalis, is the Dutch secretariat [for IPBES](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about IPBES in the Netherlands? Contact Maxime Eiselin. Email: [Maxime.eiselin@iucn.nl](mailto:Maxime.eiselin@iucn.nl)



Country **the Netherlands**

#### Partners

• IUCN Interregional Committee for Europe, North, and Central Asia • the Zoological Society of London • IUCN Species Survival Commission • IUCN Red List Unit Cambridge • IUCN National Red List Working Group • The Leo foundation • The Belgian Biodiversity Platform

# LAUNCH OF NEW GUIDELINES FOR NATIONAL RED LISTING AT IUCN REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM

In September of 2024, [new guidelines](#) for the National Red Lists were launched. These guidelines should provide a uniform methodology for constructing these lists, making them more consistent and comparable. This will ensure high-quality data in the future when different countries combine their data to determine the progress in improving the status of biodiversity.



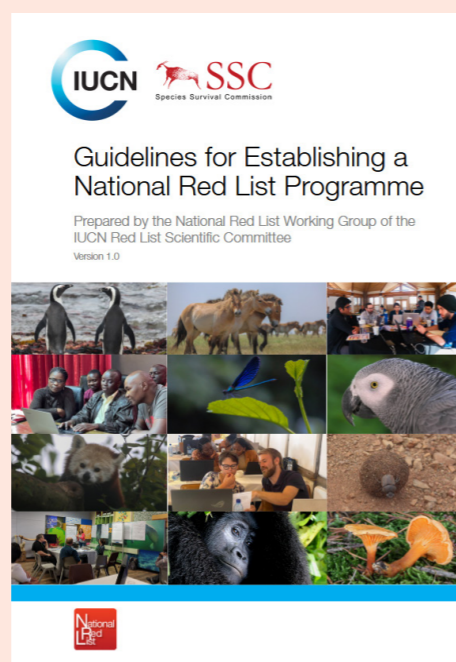
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 13 • goal 15



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 4 • target 6 • target 21

**T**he Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) requests countries to report on trends of species extinction risk in their national reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Therefore, red listing at the national level should be included as part of National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plans (NBSAPs). National Red List assessments enable countries to monitor accurately the status of species for which they are responsible.

It is important that the process of National Red Listing is of sufficient quality. However, a lot of National Red Lists are currently produced with different methodologies. The new guidelines, officially launched by the IUCN SSC Red List Committee during the IUCN Regional Conservation Forum (RCF), will harmonise the preparation of National Red Lists.



Cover of Guidelines National Red List Programme © IUCN

## WHY ARE NATIONAL RED LISTS IMPORTANT?

High-quality National Red Lists are of huge importance to keep track of the status of species. They serve as the foundation for producing the National Red List Indices, which track how species' extinction risk changes over time. By providing information on the status and trend of a species, National Red Lists can be used to inform nature conservation planning and policies. This allows for regional focus on which species and areas are most important to conserve.

'National Red Lists are the scientific starting point for national legislation to enforce the protection of endangered species. An example are the national red lists of pollinators (bees, bumble bees, and hoverflies) which contribute significantly to national and regional (EU) nature conservation policy,' says Sander van Anandel, Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL.

- [Read the key recommendations for National Red Lists](#)



*Sericomyia superbiens* © David Tempelman

## THE IUCN REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM

Every four years, in the lead-up to the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the IUCN RCF provides a unique platform for IUCN Members in Europe, North and Central Asia to exchange ideas, network and set the agenda for nature. The RCF took place in Brugge in October 2024.



National red list side event op RCF © Wim De Wulf IUCN

## MORE INFORMATION

**Do you want to learn more about the IUCN Red List? Check out our website or contact Sander van Anandel.**

**Email: [Sander.vanandel@iucn.nl](mailto:Sander.vanandel@iucn.nl)**



Country **the Netherlands**

Partners

- **Naturalis Biodiversity Center • SoortenNL**
- **Sovon Vogelonderzoek Nederland**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 14 • goal 15



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 14 • target 21

# DUTCH NATIONAL DASHBOARD FOR BIODIVERSITY LAUNCHED

Biodiversity in the Netherlands is in bad shape. Both the EU and the UN have set targets to halt biodiversity loss and bend the curve towards recovery by 2030. We want to understand how the Netherlands is doing in its attempt to achieve this ambitious goal. Are we on track to meet the targets? This is why IUCN NL, in collaboration with Naturalis Biodiversity Center, SoortenNL, and Sovon, launched the Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity in 2024.

**T**he online Dashboard provides an overview of the state of Dutch nature and shows whether the Netherlands is on track to meet its 2030 biodiversity restoration targets.

On 22 May, the International Day of Biodiversity, the Dashboard was launched. It had over 5,200 visits on its first day.

## WHAT IS THE DUTCH NATIONAL DASHBOARD FOR BIODIVERSITY?

The Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity (NDB) provides an overview of reliable, science-based, and regularly updated information on biodiversity in the Netherlands. The Dashboard presents this information in such a way that professionals in positions with influence on the key drivers of biodiversity restoration in the Netherlands (policymakers, civil servants, and companies) can use it to steer their policies and action.



Black-tailed Godwit in herb-rich grassland © Jelger Herder

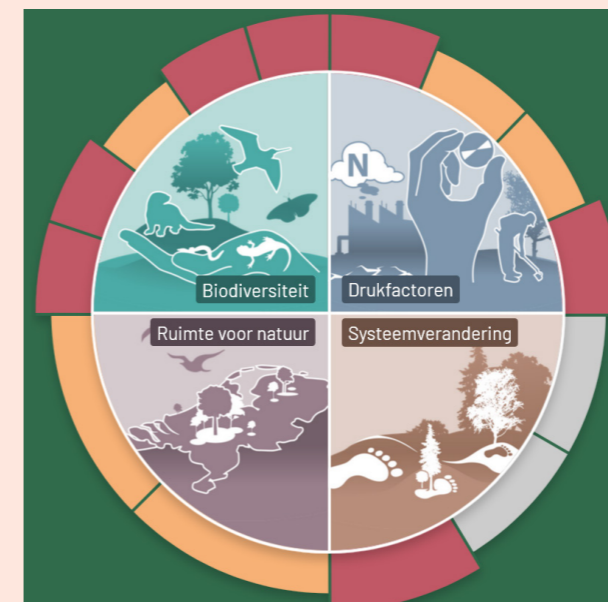
## WHAT DOES THE NDB LOOK LIKE?

The NDB is structured around four themes that together guide the Netherlands towards biodiversity restoration: improving biodiversity, conserving, and expanding nature, reducing the pressures on biodiversity and encouraging systems change.

Based on the themes, a careful selection has been made based on existing indicators, most of which come from the Environmental Data Compendium. The state of biodiversity and thus the progress of biodiversity restoration can be read from these indicators.



Curious mole © Mark Kilner



© Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity

## INSUFFICIENT WATER QUALITY

‘For most of the Dashboards’ themes we are still far from reaching the 2030 targets,’ says Caspar Verwer, Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL. ‘However, we do see progress in some areas. For instance, the total size of formally protected areas in the Netherlands has gradually been increasing.’

‘At the same time, many of the environmental factors, such as the ecological quality of water, remain inadequate’, he adds. ‘This highlights the need for a comprehensive approach halting the major drivers of biodiversity loss. Simply increasing protected areas does not yet guarantee that biodiversity will improve,’ Verwer concludes.

● [Visit the Dashboard](#)

## MORE INFORMATION

**Would you like to learn more about the National Dashboard for Biodiversity?**

**Contact Caspar Verwer.**

**Email:** [Caspar.verwer@iucn.nl](mailto:Caspar.verwer@iucn.nl)



## Nature conservation

Worldwide, biodiversity is rapidly declining, while healthy ecosystems are crucial for the well-being of nature and people. Among the main causes of the biodiversity crisis are habitat loss, climate change, and wildlife crime. With partner organisations around the globe, we tackle forest crime and protect and restore the habitat of threatened species.

Country **Ecuador**

Partners

• **Khamai Foundation**



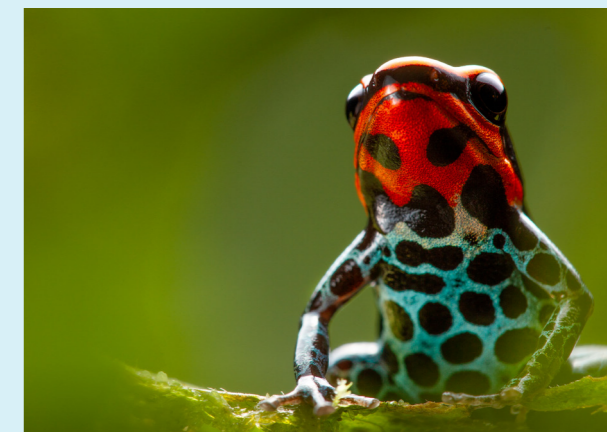
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 13 • goal 15 • goal 17



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4

## KHAMAI PROTECTS UNIQUE ECUADORIAN RAINFOREST SUPPORTED BY THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND

In the Ecuadorian rainforest, on the foothills of the Andes, one can find the World's Biodiversity Vertex: possibly the most species-rich part of the Amazon rainforest, which makes it one of the most biodiverse places in the world. With the support of the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund, the Khamai Foundation was able to safeguard 42 hectares of this landscape, which was added to the Pitalala Reserve.



Amazonian poison frog © Khamai Foundation

**T**he Khamai Foundation aims to protect this area by establishing a new private protected area: the Pitalala Reserve. The area is under threat of logging, cattle ranching, and especially gold mining. The creation of the reserve was critical in stopping a major goldmining operation.

Purchasing the forest near the Anzu River enables the Khamai Foundation to protect the habitat of species such as the Amazon Basin emerald tree boa (*Corallus caninus*) and the fringed leaf frog (*Cruziohyla craspedopus*). Khamai's young and dedicated team will also work on restoring the area to its original state, as it has been deforested and degraded due to human activities.

EXPANDING THE PITALALA RESERVE

The 42-hectares of rainforest Khamai now secured is the third plot to be added to Pitalala Reserve: a brand-new protected area that became reality. But the dream does not end here. This reserve should become the nucleus of a 10,200 hectares conservation area to protect a segment of the World’s Biodiversity Vertex in perpetuity.

LAND ACQUISITION FUND

For 25 years, the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund has been supporting conservation organisations across the world to prevent biodiversity loss and protect, connect, and restore important natural areas. In collaboration with the communities in these areas, local NGOs secure nature by land purchase or long-term land lease.

The conservationists behind these organisations often work in challenging conditions where safety is far from self-evident. Yet they continue to dedicate themselves to safeguarding nature. These people, with ‘fire in the belly’, make the difference. ‘Securing important ecosystems is impossible without the conservationists on the front line,’ says Marc Hoogeslag, Senior Expert Nature Conservation and Coordinator of the Land Acquisition Fund.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about the Land Acquisition Fund? Visit [our website](#) or contact [Marc Hoogeslag](#). Email: [Marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl](mailto:Marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl)



Area of the Pitalala Reserve © Khamai Foundation

PARTNERS EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

Exchanging knowledge and establishing a global network of passionate conservationists is also part of the work of the Land Acquisition Fund. In April 2024, the Córdoba Ornithological Society (SOC) – a new partner to the fund – visited Proyecto Titi, partner of almost the first hour. Both conservation NGOs are based in Colombia.

‘Inspiration. Experiencing the commitment, witnessing the fieldwork and knowing the insights into the Proyecto Titi Foundation exemplifies what a true knowledge exchange looks like. As a young conservationist, meeting with senior conservationist Rosamira Guillén was profoundly enlightening. It reinforced the path that the SOC must continue to follow in our mission to conserve Colombia’s avian diversity through an inclusive approach,’ says Hugo Vides, Project Director of SOC.

● [Check out their Instagram post](#)

Country **Bolivia**

Partners

• **Fundación NATIVA Bolivia**

MANAGEMENT PLAN ÑEMBI GUASU APPROVED BY INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENT

Bolivia’s Grand Chaco region is characterised by biological and cultural richness. Together with our partner organisation Fundación NATIVA Bolivia, we strengthen the Indigenous management of the Ñembi Guasu Indigenous Conservation Area that safeguards the Bolivian Gran Chaco through locally-led conservation. In a major step forward, in 2024, the Charagua Iyambae Indigenous government endorsed by law the management plan for the area.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
goal 3 • goal 10 • goal 13 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS  
target 1 • target 3 • target 4 • target 8 • target 22

The knowledge of Indigenous peoples is essential for sustainable landscape management. Despite this, decision-making processes in many parts of the world often ignore the interests and knowledge of Indigenous communities. However, the Bolivian law on Indigenous autonomy allows for protected areas to be established and managed by an autonomous Indigenous government.

INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION IN ÑEMBI GUASU

The [Ñembi Guasu Indigenous Conservation Area](#), consolidated in 2019, was the first conservation area established within the country’s law on Indigenous autonomy. After supporting the establishment of the conservation area with others, a new phase was started in 2022, funded by DOB Ecology, to support the Indigenous governance of the Guaraní people through NATIVA.



Field visit Ñembi Guasu © Fundación NATIVA Bolivia

The project's objective is for Ñembi Guasu to become an effectively managed Indigenous conservation area with adequate management and strong local leadership. The formal approval of the management plan by the Charagua Iyambae Indigenous government is a critical step towards achieving this.

'As IUCN NL, we congratulate the Charagua Indigenous peoples and their authorities for their achievements and for their constant commitment to conserving Ñembi Guasu,' says Sander van Andel, Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL. 'The primary goal of our collaboration is to lay the basis for the sustainable management of Ñembi Guasu in alignment with local Indigenous principles, ensuring ecological and cultural connectivity within the Chaco-Pantanal Conservation Landscape.'

#### APPROVAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

The construction of the Ñembi Guasu management plan and the approval into law was done through numerous consultations and meetings with the active participation of community and zonal leaders, elders and representatives of the three governance bodies of GAIOC Charagua Iyambae: Executive body (Tëtarembiokuai Reta), Legislative body (Mborokuai Simbika Iyapoa Reta), and Large Collective Assembly (Ñemboatiguasu).

● [Visit the website of Ñembi Guasu](#)

#### MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about our support to Ñembi Guasu? Check our [website](#) or contact Sander van Andel. Email: [Sander.vanandel@iucn.nl](mailto:Sander.vanandel@iucn.nl)



#### CHARAGUA IYAMBAE PROTECTED AREAS LAW

In 2024, Bolivia saw another monumental development for Indigenous-led nature conservation, when the Charagua Iyambae Protected Areas Law was approved. The law, the result of a participatory process of over seventy meetings and assemblies, further consolidates the protection and governance of more than five million hectares of forests and other ecosystems.

The Charagua Iyambae Protected Areas Law is not only a legal norm, but a reflection of the Guarani people's cosmovision and values. The Charagua Iyambae experience demonstrates to the world the potential of Indigenous communities to protect their natural and cultural heritage and to contribute to the sustainable development of their territories.



Ñembi Guasu © Sander van Andel IUCN NL

Country **Bolivia** • Brazil • Chile • Ecuador

• Indonesia • Iran • Madagascar • Mexico • Laos

• Namibia • Nepal • Nicaragua • Peru • Philippines

Partners

• 14 local NGOs and groups

## GREEN LIFELINE ACTION FUND PROVIDES VITAL CONSERVATION SUPPORT AROUND THE GLOBE

In March 2024, IUCN NL launched a new initiative: the new Green Lifeline Action Fund. The objective of the fund, supported by Sub3, is to provide rapid support to conservation NGOs around the world, aiming to serve as a lifeline for conservation efforts that are critical to preserving biodiversity and safeguarding the well-being of our natural world. In its first year, the fund has granted 22 requests.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 13 • goal 15 • goal 16 • goal 17



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4 •

**T**he Green Lifeline Action Fund (GLAF) responds to a need for quick, trust-based funding to tackle emergencies and keep conservation momentum. It is designed to provide vital and flexible support to conservation organisations and local groups when they face unforeseen challenges or financial constraints.

'In times of increasing risk of natural disasters and a shrinking civic space, the need for timely, trust-based support is growing. GLAF was developed to support conservation organisations when they need it the most,' says Marc Hoogeslag, Coordinator of the fund and Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL.



Annamite Mountains © Souksamlan Laladeth

TRUSTED-NOMINATOR APPROACH

GLAF, accepting proposals on invitation only, builds upon a global trusted network of conservation experts. Through its trusted-nominator approach, small-scale funding can be provided rapidly and flexibly. In 2024, about 40 conservationists worldwide were part of GLAF’s growing trusted nominator network.

SUPPORT PROVIDED IN 2024

In its first ten months, GLAF has granted 22 requests of fourteen conservation organisations and local groups in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Most of the requests related to legal cases and natural disasters.

But there was also other support needed. Project Palaka, for example, was able to overcome the funding gap in 2024 because of GLAF. It is the only organisation in the Philippines enacting in-situ and ex-situ conservation actions for the country’s threatened amphibians. ‘In my quest for emergency funding, I came across other emergency grants that placed restrictions on who could apply. GLAF was truly a lifesaver for our project, and part of the reason for this was their openness to accepting applications from all conservation projects in need of emergency funding,’ shares Norman GreenHawk from Project Palaka.



Gigantes Limestone frog (*Platymantis insulatus*) © Project Palaka.

MORE INFORMATION

For more information, contact Marc Hoogeslag. Proposals by invitation only.  
Email: [Marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl](mailto:Marc.hoogeslag@iucn.nl)



Whale shark in Madagascar © Simon J. Pierce

# 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.

Country **Bolivia**

Partners

• CEDIB • Probioma • Savia • IBIF



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 2 • goal 6 • goal 13 • goal 15



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 3 • target 6 • target 8 • target 10 • target 11 • target 22

## PROTECTING BOLIVIA'S CHIQUITANO FOREST FOR WATER AND BIODIVERSITY

The Chiquitano forest in Bolivia plays an essential role in biodiversity conservation and climate regulation but is under severe threat due to deforestation. Through the Forests for a Just Future programme by the Green Livelihoods Alliance, we support civil society organisations who work together with Indigenous peoples and local communities to create policies that prioritise forest and water resource conservation.

The main driver of deforestation is the expansion of agriculture by the agribusiness sector, which has historically been supported by government policies. Deforestation leads to an increase in land surface temperatures, which causes habitat loss and increases the risk of forest fires. These changes affect biodiversity, reduce carbon storage capacities, and impact the ecological balance. Agribusiness practices also impact water availability through deforestation and intensive water use. This not only impacts biodiversity and ecological balance but also affects the livelihoods and well-being of local communities.



Woman getting water in the Chiquitania region © CEDIB

CONSERVATION EFFORTS OF LOCAL CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS

Local civil society organisations (CSOs) play a crucial role in the protection of the Chiquitano forest. By learning about water scarcity concerns of the Indigenous peoples and local communities, the CSOs could shape context-based forest conservation strategies. They integrated water governance solutions into their plans and have been actively involved in data gathering, mobilising communities, and implementing community-based water monitoring systems. They also organised workshops with regional and national authorities and filed complaints to the agro-environmental tribunal.

Additionally, they have contributed to Universal Periodic Review reports for the United Nations, ensuring that local voices and environmental concerns are heard on an international level. These efforts led to achievements such as water committees now securing a seat at the table of local and regional governments, directly influencing water governance and conservation decisions.

TOWARDS INCLUSIVE MANAGEMENT

Through the Forests for a Just Future programme by the Green Livelihoods Alliance, IUCN NL contributes to more sustainable and inclusive management of tropical forests that supports climate mitigation and adaptation, human rights, and the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and local communities. We supported our partners in Bolivia both financially and technically by providing funding, connecting partners with research organisations, assisting with territorial protection and security, and by elevating these issues to the international stage.

DEVASTATING FOREST FIRES IN BOLIVIA

The Chiquitano dry forest covers over 23 million hectares, with most of it located in Bolivia. Over four million hectares of forest [were lost due to wildfires](#), including 45% of the San Matías Integrated Natural Management Area. Although adapted to drought, the forest's resilience is strained by frequent fires, hindering natural regeneration, altering species composition, and reducing biodiversity. Continuous fires favour fire-tolerant species, weakening the ecosystem. Our partners CEDIB, Probioma and Savia have long gathered critical data, advocated for sustainable land use, and highlighted agribusiness's role in deforestation and forest fires.



Fires in the Chiquitano dry forest © Manuel Seoane

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about our work to protect forests? Visit [our website](#) or contact [Mariel Cabero](#). Email: [Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl](mailto:Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl)



Country **Madagascar**

Partners

• **SAF/FJKM** • **The Aspinal Foundation**

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BOOSTS CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE OF FARMING COMMUNITIES IN EASTERN MADAGASCAR

Madagascar is not only rich in biodiversity but also provides essential ecosystem services, including fresh water, to millions. However, it is the world's fourth most vulnerable country to climate change. Increasing droughts and cyclones are severely impacting communities, particularly those reliant on rain-fed agriculture. Changing rainfall patterns and declining crop yields have led to food insecurity and malnutrition. In response, many farmers clear forests to expand farmland, exacerbating soil erosion, drought, and flooding.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
[goal 13](#) • [goal 14](#)



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS  
[target 1](#) • [target 2](#) • [target 3](#) • [target 4](#) •  
[target 8](#) • [target 10](#) • [target 11](#) • [target 19](#)

This is also the case in the Forest Corridor of Ankeniheny Zahamena, a critical landscape surrounded by four protected areas: Zahamena National Park, the Special Reserve of Mangerivola, the Strict Natural Reserve of Betampona, and Analamazaotra-Mantadia National Park. Home to many endemic species, this corridor is also an essential water source for the country.

ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE

With financial support from CEPF, the Aspinal Foundation is working with farming communities in the corridor to adapt to climate change. Their efforts include awareness campaigns, patrolling, and training in climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry, aiming to reduce deforestation while strengthening ecosystem resilience.

The project supports 300 families across five communities, focusing on improved agricultural techniques to boost food security and climate resilience. Training covers sustainable farming methods, natural pest control, and weed management. Additionally, farmers receive equipment such as man-powered shredders to create compost, enhancing soil fertility without harming the environment.

HEALTHY ECOSYSTEMS

Paul Villaespesa, who is working on the CEPF programme on behalf of IUCN NL, explains: ‘Healthy ecosystems, such as forests, wetlands, and coastal areas, play a crucial role in climate adaptation, providing water, food, and protection against extreme weather. Biodiverse forests, for example, help prevent erosion and landslides. Ecosystem-based adaptation is the use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.’

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about nature conservation in Madagascar? Contact Paul Villaespesa.  
Email: [Paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl](mailto:Paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl)



**THE ROLES OF CEPF AND IUCN NL IN MADAGASCAR**

CEPF is a joint initiative of l’Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Conservation International, the European Union, the Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, and the World Bank. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation.

With funding from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) through AFD as the GCF accredited entity, and from the European Union through AFD acting as the fiduciary agent, CEPF established and is managing a ten-year programme of support to civil society organisations to promote ecosystem-

based adaptation in the Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot. Programme activities are taking place in Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles.

CEPF has enlisted a consortium of nongovernmental organisations to be its regional implementation team (RIT) in the hotspot. Coordinated by IUCN NL, the RIT includes SAF/FJKM for Madagascar, ID-ONG for Comoros, FORENA for Mauritius and SeyCCAT for Seychelles. These organisations are working with CEPF to implement a five-year conservation strategy for the hotspot and build local civil society capacity.



Vegetable garden Andranomena © The Aspinall Foundation Madagascar / Image by NISI Rindraniavo from NGO Fanambinantsoa

Country Europe

Partners

- IDENER • KNEIA • BOKU • FIC • WEnR • UEF • UOULU • WI-EA • Stroming • Bax • KU Leuven • UT • UniPR • ADBPO • RSS • UEVORA • CMA



Wetlands are the habitat of otters and many other species  
© Andy Willis via Unsplash

REWET IDENTIFIES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU WETLANDS

If managed sustainably, European wetlands act as powerful carbon sinks, sequestering vast amounts of greenhouse gases. Large-scale restoration is essential to revive these ecosystems and restore their natural functions. As part of REWET, IUCN NL works on developing a comprehensive understanding of how European wetlands can best contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

goal 13 • goal 14 • goal 15 • goal 17

GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS

target 2 • target 8 • target 11 • target 14 • target 21

AREWET policy analysis conducted by IUCN NL in 2024, shows that successful policy and programme implementation largely relies on clear regulatory frameworks at national and subnational levels combined with sufficient capacity for implementation and enforcement. In addition, we identified opportunities for wetland restoration by EU Member States.

‘Examples throughout the UK and Scandinavia have shown that restoration of degraded peatlands can be scaled up significantly in relatively short term when governments adopt an ambitious vision for the future, phase out destructive activities and invest serious amounts in ecosystem restoration,’ says Casper Verwer, Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL.



Soil sample © Nadine Kliffen IUCN NL

STRATEGICALLY ALIGNING RESTORATION EFFORTS

The analysis shows that conflicting policies at the EU level challenge effective wetland restoration and conservation. Currently, restoration efforts of EU Member States are often hindered by conflicting national, regional, and local interests, as well as regulatory barriers, funding shortages, and complex governance structures.

Wetland restoration efforts should therefore be strategically aligned at local, regional, and national levels. Additionally, coordination among member states is necessary for effective restoration, supporting wetland recovery and resilience at the EU level.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR EU WETLANDS

The EU Nature Restoration Law recognises wetland restoration as a cost-effective, quick way to reduce land-use greenhouse gas emissions. Together with other EU legislation, the new law creates important opportunities for action on wetlands restoration, such as:

- collaborate at the river basin level;
- innovative monitoring and restoration technologies for monitoring and wetland restoration;
- develop new economic opportunities; and
- increase public awareness.

The new EU legislation needs to be translated and implemented at the national level, creating an important momentum. Governments and other stakeholders will need to develop concrete strategies for nature restoration before August 2026.

● [Read the policy brief](#)

REWET: A LABORATORY FOR WETLANDS

REWET (REstoration of WETlands to minimise emissions and maximise carbon uptake) is a laboratory for the restoration of wetlands at European scale. Funded by the EU, NGOs, universities, companies, and institutions joined forces to develop a comprehensive understanding of how European wetlands can best contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation.



REWET meeting in Parma in May 2024 © REWET

MORE INFORMATION

Would you like to learn more about REWET? Check [our website](#) or contact Caspar Verwer.  
Email: [Caspar.verwer@iucn.nl](mailto:Caspar.verwer@iucn.nl)



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REWET Open Lab National Park Weerribben-Wieden  
© Nadine Kliffen IUCN NL



## Environmental justice and inclusion

Every person on Earth has the right to a safe, healthy, and sustainable living environment. Unfortunately, in many of the countries where we work this right is violated. 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.



Country **Indonesia**

Partners

• KKI Warsi

## CREATING SUSTAINABLE FUTURES: ENHANCING AGARWOOD PRODUCTION IN WEST SUMATRA

In Padang Laweh, West Sumatra, the Social Forestry Business Group (KUPS) Putra Harapan is creating sustainable livelihoods while preserving the local environment. Supported by the Strengthen the Roots programme, members have attended multiple trainings and built a washing station for agarwood leaves, improving the hygiene and quality of their herbal drink production.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

[goal 1](#) • [goal 2](#) • [goal 5](#) • [goal 8](#) • [goal 12](#) • [goal 15](#) • [goal 17](#)



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**

[target 2](#) • [target 3](#) • [target 5](#) • [target 9](#) • [target 10](#) • [target 11](#) • [target 19](#) • [target 22](#)

**A**garwood is a fragrant, resinous wood prized for perfumes, incense, and traditional medicine. It forms when certain trees produce aromatic resin in response to mold infection. Known as 'oud' in Arabic, 'gaharu' in Indonesian, and 'chenxiang' in Chinese, it is highly valued worldwide.

### ALTERNATIVE LIVELIHOODS

KUPS Putra Harapan, comprising seventeen members (ten women and seven men, including five youths), aims to develop marketable agarwood products. Women produce herbal drinks from the leaves, while men extract essential oil from the stems. The group was founded a decade ago to provide alternative livelihoods for former illegal gold miners.

In recent years, financial support from the District Forest Management Unit (KPHL Sijunjung) enabled the construction of a production house. The group is also in close contact with the village head (the *Wali*) about the opportunities for financial support from the village government, especially for training activities.

### EMPOWERING COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

With backing from IUCN NL, Wilde Ganzen, and KKI Warsi, the Strengthen the Roots project empowers community organisations in Bolivia, Ghana, and Indonesia. In 2024, with Strengthen the Roots funds, the Putra Harapan could invest in:

- Training in distillation techniques by the Essential Oil Network.
- Organisational capacity building from KKI Warsi.
- Equipment, including leaf choppers, production tables, and washing stations.

The group, with KKI Warsi's support and using the skills they obtained in the Mobilising Support trainings as part of the Strengthen the Roots programme, is working towards securing permits for harvesting and marketing agarwood products, including certification from the West Sumatra Natural Resources Conservation Centre (BKSDA) and a license from the Agency for Drug and Food Control (BPOM) to sell the agarwood products.

Evelien van den Broek, Senior Expert Environmental Justice, visited the group in Padang Laweh in February 2024 and was highly impressed. 'The group members showcased their community enterprise through a well-prepared presentation and served delicious herbal drinks made from agarwood leaves. Their enthusiasm, the meticulously cared-for agarwood trees, and the fully equipped production house are all promising indicators of a thriving community business in the making.'



Discussion on action plan © KTH Putra Harapan

### STRENGTHEN THE ROOTS

IUCN NL, Wilde Ganzen and KKI Warsi work together in the project [Strengthen the Roots](#), which supports small community organisations that stand up for nature in and around their communities, enabling them to mobilise local support for their work. Small organisations are put in touch with larger conservation organisations to strengthen their networks.



Agarwood cultivation land mapping © KTH Putra Harapan

### MORE INFORMATION

**Do you want to learn more about our work in Indonesia? Contact Evelien van den Broek.**

**Email:** [Evelien.vandenbroek@iucn.nl](mailto:Evelien.vandenbroek@iucn.nl)



### Region Amazon

#### Partners

• **Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible (FCDS)** • **Sociedad Peruano de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)** • **Amazon Underworld**

## CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL PEACEBUILDING: ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS IN THE AMAZON

From 18 until 21 June 2024, the Third Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding took place in The Hague. The participants discussed topics ranging from climate change and water security to natural resource management and the role of digital technologies in environmental peacebuilding. At the conference, IUCN NL and partners organised a panel discussion on environmental protection and peacebuilding in the Amazon rainforest.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
[goal 5](#) • [goal 10](#) • [goal 13](#) • [goal 15](#) • [goal 17](#)



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
[target 13](#) • [target 14](#) • [target 22](#) • [target 23](#)

The event 'Promoting Peace, Protecting the Environment: Challenges and Solutions in the Amazon Basin' focused on pressing issues such as gender dimensions and violence against Indigenous women, vulnerability of Indigenous territories and illegal economies, as well as the creation of the '[Observatorio Amazonia](#)'. Speakers included Rodrigo Botero (FCDS), Silvana Baldovino (SPDA), and Bram Ebus (Amazon Underworld). The session was moderated by IUCN NL's Liliana Jauregui.

### AMAZON UNDERWORLD

Amazon Underworld, Amazon Watch, and the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, supported by IUCN NL and others, conducted research in remote parts of the Amazon to document transboundary illegal sectors. Their research was presented in the report 'Amazon Underworld: criminal economies in the world's largest rainforest'.

● [Read the Amazon Underworld report](#)

### INCLUDING GENDER APPROACHES

Women are often at the forefront of defending human and environmental rights, while at the same time being more at risk. Gender is therefore an essential component to consider in the protection of environmental defenders. 'The inclusion of gender approaches in policy and other peace building initiatives, with active participation of women leaders and women's rights organisations, will strengthen the protection of human and territorial rights in Amazon communities,' says Mariel Cabero, Expert Environmental Justice at IUCN NL.

AMAZON RIGHTS IN FOCUS

Due to the surging demand for commodities such as beef, gold, and illicit crops, the Amazon is increasingly facing the pressure of deforestation. To reduce crime in the Amazon rainforest and improve the territorial rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities, IUCN NL works with together with the *Fundación para la Conservación y el Desarrollo Sostenible* (FCDS), Mongabay, and Ambiente y Sociedad through Amazon Rights in Focus.

- [Watch the video: Drivers of deforestation in the Colombian Amazon](#)

At the same time, we are working with *Sociedad Peruano de Derecho Ambiental* (SPDA) and two local organisations in Madre de Dios in Peru to improve the protection of (women) environmental defenders through PIDDA Rights.



Activities of FCDS with women in the Colombian Amazon © FCDS

GENDER DYNAMICS IN THE AMAZON

IUCN NL commissioned studies on gender dynamics in the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon regions. In 2024, these studies were finalised and brought together into one report. While differing in their sociopolitical and environmental context, the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon regions face similar challenges that highlight the deep interconnections between gender and environmental issues. These parallel studies show how extractive economies, such as mining and cattle ranching, intensify violence with wide-reaching social, economic and ecological impacts.

The report ‘Women in a degraded Amazon: struggles for land, body and nature,’ was published in March 2025 in the context of International Women’s Day.

- [Read the report](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about Amazon Rights in Focus or our other work in the Amazon region? Visit [our website](#) or contact **Mariel Cabero**.

Email: [Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl](mailto:Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl)



This project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) through Norway’s International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI). The views and perspectives expressed by the project partners can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the Government of Norway.

Country **Democratic Republic of Congo**

Partners

- **ACEDH**



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 10 • goal 15 • goal 16



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 5 • target 21 • target 22

ACEDH RECEIVES TWO PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS FOR WORK IN THE DRC

In 2024, Congolese environmental and human rights defender Olivier Ndoole received two prestigious awards for his work as an environmental rights defender and lawyer: [the Global Citizen Prize for Civic Space](#) and the Embassy Tulip Award, presented by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. IUCN NL has been working with Olivier’s organisation ACEDH for almost ten years, supporting and helping Olivier to develop his organisation and carrying out projects together, whether on the rights of environmental defenders, environmental justice, or wildlife trafficking cases. In 2023, Olivier also received the Front Line Defenders Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk.



Olivier Ndoole accepting the Embassy Tulip Award © ACEDH

In 2008, Olivier co-founded the NGO *Alerte Congolaise pour l’Environnement et les Droits de l’Homme* (ACEDH), through which he has actively supported and represented local communities, groups and individuals working on the environment for over fifteen years. Olivier is known as the ‘Green Lawyer’ in North Kivu because of his defence of Virunga National Park, its workers, and its people. The communities he has represented face economic expropriation and exploitation of their land and resources.

OLIVIER NDOOLE: THE ‘GREEN LAWYER’

Olivier has been persecuted and faced grave danger due to his human rights work, targeted by recurring death threats and an attempted assassination, which caused him to flee his home country and go into exile for his own protection. Despite this, Olivier continues to exert himself to achieve justice for the victims of land and environmental injustice, even in a context of diminishing civic space.

## GLA SURVEY: CIVIC SPACE UNDER PRESSURE IN TROPICAL FOREST LANDSCAPES

Effective forest conservation and Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LC)-led forest governance can only be achieved in a context where civil society organisations and IP&LCs can act in a safe operational space. A [survey](#) carried out by the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA), of which IUCN NL is a part showed that partners and communities in the programme experience difficulties in their civic freedom, seriously impacting their work to protect forests and the livelihoods of IP&LCs in forest landscapes. In all GLA countries civic space is diminishing, and either rated as closed, repressed or obstructed.



Olivier Ndoole accepting the Embassy Tulip Award © ACEDH



Olivier Ndoole accepting the Embassy Tulip Award © ACEDH

## WORKING TO PROTECT ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

IUCN NL is working on concrete interventions that improve the safety of environmental defenders. We provide safety training, offer legal aid, and provide tools people can use to protect their environment safely, such as risk analyses and communication protocols. We also ensure that swift action can be taken when conservationists are in need, for example by making funds available so that people can be brought to safety or receive legal assistance acutely.

### MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about our work? Check out [our website](#) or contact **Paul Villaespesa**.

Email: [Paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl](mailto:Paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl)



## Country Peru

### Partners

• **Sociedad Peruano de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA)** • **Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD)** • **Comité de Gestión de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata (CDG)**.

# STRENGTHENING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS

Through its partners in Peru, IUCN NL works to empower environmental defenders, especially (Indigenous) women and youth. In 2024, we have advocated for strengthening the protection of women defenders in Latin America in the international arena, including at the COP16 and the IUCN South American Conservation Forum.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
goal 5 • goal 10 • goal 15 • goal 16 • goal 17



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
target 13 • target 14 • target 22 • target 23

Environmental human rights defenders play a crucial role in protecting biodiversity and climate action. But they face serious threats, including different types of violence. These threats compromise their ability to carry out their advocacy work and affect their personal lives severely.

## SOUTH AMERICAN CONSERVATION FORUM

On 15 October 2024, experts and Indigenous women leaders from Peru, Ecuador, and international organisations shared views on the current situation of women environmental human rights defenders at the event 'Women Environmental Human Rights Defenders: experiences and strategies from the territories and opportunities of international fora' during the IUCN South American Conservation Forum in Santa Marta, Colombia.

● [Read more about the event at the RCF](#)



Meeting of the Indigenous Kotsimba community in Madre de Dios © Diego Perez SPDA

SIDE EVENT AT THE COP16

One week later, on 23 October, the side event ‘Empowering women environmental defenders: gendered territorial strategies from Latin America relevant to the monitoring of the Global Biodiversity Framework’ sought dialogue on the disproportionate impact of biodiversity loss on women in local communities, and addressed the importance of gender indicators for equitable accountability.

Silvana Baldovino, Director of the Biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples Programme of our Peruvian partner organisation *Sociedad Peruano de Derecho Ambiental* (SPDA) pointed out that ‘differentiated measures are needed’ for the protection of women environmental defenders.

PIDDA RIGHTS

One of our objectives of the PIDDA Rights project is strengthening the Peruvian protection system for environmental rights defenders, applying a gender and intercultural approach. ‘Only by analysing gender-disaggregated data, can we truly understand what is happening to women in the Amazon. This understanding enables the development of effective solutions that protect their rights and safeguard the Amazon,’ shares Expert Environmental Justice Mariel Cabero.

PIDDA Rights is a project of IUCN NL, SPDA, *Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes* (FENAMAD) and *Comité de Gestión de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata* (CDG).



Session on women defenders at COP16 Photo © Diego Coll SPDA

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about PIDDA Rights or our work to support environmental defenders? Visit [our website](#) or contact Mariel Cabero. Email: [Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl](mailto:Mariel.cabero@iucn.nl)



This project is supported by the *Agence Française de Développement* (AFD). AFD implements France’s policy on international development and solidarity. Through its financing of NGOs and the public sector, as well as its research and publications, AFD supports and accelerates transitions towards a fairer, more resilient world.



Workshop for communicators in Madre de Dios © Diego Perez SPDA



# Value chains and investing in nature

All over the world, biodiversity is increasingly under pressure from mining and large-scale agriculture. Dutch companies and financial institutions 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.

Country **Ghana • Cameroon • Indonesia**

**• Uganda • Zambia**

Partners

• WWF-NL • Tropenbos International • landscape partners A Rocha Ghana • ECOTRUST Uganda • Tropenbos Ghana • Tropenbos Indonesia • WWF Cameroon • WWF Zambia



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**goal 1 • goal 5 • goal 7 • goal 12 • goal 13 • goal 15 • goal 17**



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**

**target 8 • target 10 • target 11 • target 15 • target 19 • target 23**

## BEEKEEPING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE SCALES UP HONEY PRODUCTION IN UGANDA

In 2024, Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C) strengthened its portfolio of business cases for nature-based solutions and biodiversity restoration in six landscapes in Cameroon, Ghana, Indonesia, Uganda, and Zambia. One of the many highlights of 2024 was the establishment of the Beekeeping Centre of Excellence in the Murchison Landscape in Uganda.

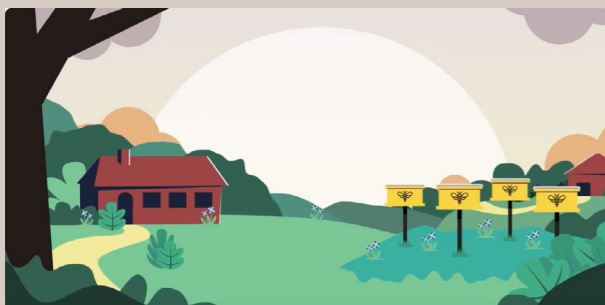
**M**oMo4C, supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, is a pioneering initiative integrating landscape and inclusive governance approaches to develop early-stage, small-to-medium ticket business cases in rural and underdeveloped areas. So far, the programme has attracted public, private and philanthropic investments with a total worth of 19,481,210 euro.

### SUPPORTING BUSINESS CASE DEVELOPMENT

MoMo4C scouts and supports local entrepreneurs that have the capacity to develop their nature and climate work into a business case, and support them through technical assistance, some seed funding and eventually to scale and attract investments. Through our local partners, we work in landscapes that face severe deforestation, ecosystem degradation, and weak governance, making them vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Indigenous and other rural communities are hit hardest by these impacts, while contributing least to their underlying drivers. 'Under MoMo4C local producers, innovators and entrepreneurs have a seat at the table to develop solutions benefitting nature and people. In each landscape, women and youth play a central role,' Jan Willem, Coordinator of MoMo4C and Senior Expert Nature Conservation at IUCN NL, says.

● [Video: MoMo4C in Indonesia](#)



### BEEKEEPING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

MoMo4C partners have been supporting communities and entrepreneurs in dozens of high-value products from natural forests and wetlands. Honey is a commodity in several landscapes. As with other products, its production helps make the business case for the restoration and maintenance of natural ecosystems.

In October 2024, ECOTRUST Uganda formally opened the Beekeeping Centre of Excellence in Alimugonza in the Murchison Landscape. Supported by MoMo4C, the centre has five types of beehives, the capacity to process large amounts of honey and serve as a regional example for honey processing models. The Kenian company Hives Ltd. provides technical support to the centre.



Bee hives at the Beekeeping Centre of Excellence © ECOTRUST

### STRENGTHENING IMPACT

Originally running from 2019 through 2024, MoMo4C received additional funding from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs for one year, to further develop several business cases to the investment stage.

#### MOMO4C AT THE COP16

How do we ensure that climate and biodiversity funding reach locally-led nature and climate initiatives? What challenges face local entrepreneurs in scaling and financing nature-based solutions? These were the central topics of the events that MoMo4C presented at the CBD COP16 in Colombia in November 2024.

‘Five of our partners from landscapes in Ghana, Zambia, Uganda, and Indonesia were able to enthuse and inspire a large audience of nature and finance practitioners,’ reflects Jan Willem den Besten, coordinator of MoMo4C.

● [Read more about MoMo4C at the COP16](#)

### MORE INFORMATION

For more information, visit [our website](#) or contact **Jan Willem den Besten**.

Email: [Janwillem.denbesten@iucn.nl](mailto:Janwillem.denbesten@iucn.nl)



Country **Indonesia**

Partners

• **Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo)** • **Auriga Nusantara** • **Natuur & Milieu**



## NICKEL, FORESTS AND FISHERS: A PHOTO ESSAY FROM SULAWESI

Sulawesi, the fourth-largest island in the Indonesian archipelago, is a sanctuary for rare and endangered wildlife. It is home to endemic species such as the anoa (*Bubalus depressicornis*), the babirusa (*Babirusa babirusa*), and the iconic maleo bird (*Macrocephalon maleo*). This rich biodiversity is increasingly under threat from the expanding nickel industry.



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
[goal 12](#) • [goal 14](#) • [goal 15](#) • [goal 17](#)



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
[target 1](#) • [target 3](#) • [target 4](#) • [target 7](#) • [target 8](#) • [target 14](#)



Nickel mining threatens Sulawesi's environment © Garry Lotulung

In recent years, the island has witnessed a sharp rise in nickel mines and smelters, endangering its ecosystems. With his powerful photos, freelance photojournalist Garry Lotulung delves into the pressing challenges facing Sulawesi's unique wildlife and landscapes.

### IUCN NL WORKS TO PROTECT SULAWESI'S BIODIVERSITY

In collaboration with our partner organisation Alliance for Tompotika Conservation (AlTo), IUCN NL has been actively engaged in Sulawesi for over a decade. Currently, as part of the projects Forests for a Just Future and Bottom Line!, our efforts are focused on the protection of Sulawesi's forests and its endangered species, including the iconic maleo bird against nickel mining. We do this together with our partners AlTo, Auriga Nusantara, and other national and international CSOs.

**KNOWLEDGE SESSION FOR CIVIL SERVANTS ON RAW MATERIALS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION**

In November of 2024, IUCN NL and Natuur & Milieu organised a knowledge session on raw materials for the energy transition for civil servants from various Dutch ministries. During this well-attended session, experts from IUCN NL and Natuur & Milieu presented the latest knowledge on this topic, providing the basis for a discussion on what these developments mean for the Netherlands.

Participants from different ministries emphasised the importance of a strong and raw materials policy for a successful energy transition and strategic independence. Another conclusion of the discussion was that integrated policies are needed to achieve climate goals and reduce raw material demand. This session was an important first step towards more cooperation between policy departments on this topic as well as with IUCN NL and Natuur & Milieu.

Country **the Netherlands**

**Partners**

• **Stichting Ecoshape** (Arcadis, Boskalis, HKV, RHDHV • **Sweco** • **Van Oord** • **Witteveen+Bos and others**) • **Provincie Friesland** • **Gemeentes Dordrecht and Rotterdam** • **Staatsbosbeheer** • • **Deltares** • **Wageningen University & Research** • **TU Delft** • **TU Twente** • **Universiteit Utrecht** • **the NGOs ARK Rewilding NL** • **De Noordzee** • **IUCN NL** • **IVN** • **Natuur & Milieu** • **Natuur & Milieu Federaties** • **Natuurmonumenten** • **SoortenNL** • **Vogelbescherming** • **WWF-NL** • **representatives of educational instutions CoE Delta Platform** • **CoE Groen** • **CIV Groen** (Hogeschool van Hall Larenstein & HZ UAS)



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**  
**goal 8 • goal 11 • goal 13 • goal 14 • goal 15**  
**• goal 17**



**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS**  
**target 8 • target 10 • target 11 • target 12 •**  
**target 14 • target 15 • target 19 • target 21**



Nickel mining threatens Sulawesi's environment  
© Garry Lotulung

● [The complete photo essay can be found on our website.](#)

**MORE INFORMATION**

**Do you want to learn more about our work on responsible mineral governance? Check out [our website](#) or contact Maartje Hilterman.**  
**Email: [Maartje.hilterman@iucn.nl](mailto:Maartje.hilterman@iucn.nl)**

**KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME NL2120 WINS GROTE MAASKANT PRIZE**

Climate change and biodiversity loss are placing increasing pressure on the liveability of deltas worldwide, including in the Netherlands. An integrated approach is essential to ensure the sustainable and climate-resilient use of our land and water systems. IUCN NL is one of the partners in the NL2120 consortium, which is researching how nature-based solutions can help maintain the Dutch delta as an attractive place to live and invest in.

In 2024, NL2120 was awarded the Grote Maaskant prize, a prestigious Dutch award in the fields of architecture, urban planning, and landscape design. The five-member jury, which included Delta Commissioner Co Verdaas, recognised the collective efforts of scientists, government bodies, businesses and civil society organisations behind the project. According to the jury, NL2120 presents 'an inspiring vision for a climate-adaptive, nature-inclusive, and carbon-neutral spatial development of the Netherlands.'

**UPSCALING ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES**

The Netherlands is a global leader in tackling water and agriculture challenges, with investments in these sectors forming a vital part of our national economy. The knowledge and innovation programme NL2120, funded by the National Growth Fund, lays the foundation for structural improvement of our green earning capacity, while simultaneously ensuring our country is climate-resilient and has a high human wellbeing.

NL2120 is an innovative collaboration of government agencies, civil society organisations, businesses, and academic and educational institutions. Together, they are researching how to upscale ecosystem-based approaches to address societal challenges.

NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

‘IUCN NL has long been a strong advocate for nature-based solutions and promotes this approach at various levels, both in the Netherlands and across the Global South,’ explains Maxime Eiselin, Senior Expert Nature-based Solutions and Project Leader of NL2120 at IUCN NL. ‘We are committed to fostering healthy ecosystems for climate change mitigation and adaptation, ensuring that the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities remain a priority. We see that nature-based solutions are increasingly recognised as a catalyst for achieving the SDGs, the UN Climate and Biodiversity Conventions, and the EU Green Deal, among others.’

Nature-based solutions are important because they harness the power of nature as an ally in solving various environmental challenges, such as land subsidence, coastal erosion, soil degradation, drought, floods, and agricultural pests. Nature-based solutions not only address the causes and impacts of climate change but also contribute to a more resilient and nature-positive economy.

Nature-based solutions are actions to protect, manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, which address societal challenges, effectively and adaptively, providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits

IUCN definition of nature-based solutions

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about NL2120 or about nature-based solutions? Contact Maxime Eiselin.  
Email: [Maxime.eiselin@iucn.nl](mailto:Maxime.eiselin@iucn.nl)



Grote Maaskant prize-2024-© Jan van der Ploeg



Getijdenpark Briene Noord Rotterdam © Elma Duijndam

#### MORE INFORMATION

More information about our work on sustainable value chains? Visit [our website](#) or contact Heleen van den Hombergh. Email: [Heleen.vandenhombergh@iucn.nl](mailto:Heleen.vandenhombergh@iucn.nl)



Sustainability of vegetable oils is a matter of the right place, management and scale of production.

Orangutans have suffered greatly from habitat loss and fragmentation caused by oil palm plantations in Southeast Asia

© Dimitry B on Unsplash

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## IUCN REPORT: BETTER PRODUCTION PRACTICES KEY TO MINIMISING IMPACT OF VEGETABLE OILS

Globally, vegetable oils account for over 37% of agricultural land use. This number is expected to increase, and with it the possibility that oil production negatively impacts biodiversity. A report published by the IUCN Oil Crops Task Force in May 2024, examines global vegetable oil production and what is needed for its sustainable future. Heleen van den Hombergh, Senior Expert Agro-Commodities at IUCN NL, contributed to the report.

**T**he report found that growing demand for vegetable oils could translate into further conversion of natural areas into farmland, negatively impacting global biodiversity, particularly where biodiverse ecosystems are displaced. There is potential to limit harm to nature by avoiding ecosystem conversion and improving production methods. This could help meet a growing global demand, but limiting overconsumption of the oils is also an important element for the oils to become future proof.

### ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF VEGETABLE OILS

Fats are an important component of the human diet, and our modern intake of fat primarily comes from vegetable oils. At the same time, the production of vegetable oils of all types can have severe environmental impacts – especially when produced at a large scale and in monocultures. Globally, expanding agriculture is the principal cause of biodiversity decline, a major contributor to nitrogen and phosphorus pollution, and is linked to land degradation and freshwater depletion.

### INTENSIVE LAND MANAGEMENT MEANS LESS BIODIVERSITY

The extent of these negative impacts is largely dependent on production practices. A consistent

pattern emerges from scientific studies: the more intensive the land management – including monoculture practices, irrigation, and the absence of nearby natural vegetation – the lower the biodiversity. Good practices, such as deforestation and conversion free production, regenerative agriculture, agroforestry and responsible agrochemical use are important to reduce impacts on biodiversity.

Heleen van den Hombergh, Senior Expert Agro-Commodities at IUCN NL, contributed to the report, especially to the chapter on governance and global trade. ‘A key takeaway is the need for a combination of mandatory and voluntary governance instruments. Transparency and improving traceability are critical, as they enable risk management and accountability of trade chain partners. However, traceability without on-the-ground assurance of compliance with sustainability norms is not enough,’ says Van den Hombergh. For example, EUDR compliance needs to be matched with other responsible agricultural practices including chemicals management. She adds: ‘Sustainability of vegetable oils is a matter of the right place, management and scale of production.’

● [Read the report](#)

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# ABOUT US



IUCN NL team November 2024 © Stephanie Broekarts IUCN NL

## WHO WE ARE

In 2024, 32 passionate employees (28,5 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 AND INCLUSIVENESS

We see diversity and inclusiveness as great values. We are proud of the diversity of our workforce. The age range of our employees spans over 40 years: with ages from 24 to 66. We have policies to promote and

monitor gender equality, for example, in the areas of performance management and recruitment and selection.

We strive for an equal gender balance in all layers of the organisation. In 2024, we employed eighteen women and thirteen men. Thanks to targeted HR policies and more awareness, we improved the gender balance in leadership positions. In 2024, the management team consisted of one woman and two men, of which one is the director. The other two remaining management team members (one female, one male) have equally divided team and project responsibilities. From January 2025 onwards, the management team consists of two women and one man. In 2024, 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, one internal and one external, play an important role in this matter.

Following abuse issues in various sectors some years ago, group discussions on social safety at the office were started in 2023. 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. In 2024, we did not continue the office wide conversations, but organised thematic presentations by the newly appointed integrity officer on integrity issues and social safety.

## CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

### Travel

Our office is within walking distance of metro and tram stops. Employees are discouraged from using private motorised transport for commuting, therefore

no reimbursement is provided for this. Public transport commuting expenses are reimbursed 100 percent for distances over twelve kilometres however, and cyclists receive an allowance.

A part of our work involves travel to our partners in the Global South for project implementation. While we aim to keep travel to a minimum, it cannot be entirely avoided. To reduce our environmental impact, our travel policy prioritises the use of the train for travels within Europe whenever possible. Our travel agency, Unitas Travels, offers the option to offset flights and provides advice on reducing carbon footprints.

We also offset all travel-related emissions, including commuting, energy consumption, and remote working, through the World Land Trust. Currently, we support the Conservation Coast project, a REDD+ initiative in Guatemala run by FUNDAECO. This project contributes to the economic and social development of the economically disadvantaged Izabal region. It prevents deforestation by addressing the root causes of land degradation, ensuring local communities thrive alongside nature. By supporting this project, we are helping to mitigate climate change, combat biodiversity loss, and increase resilience to climate-related risks.

Thanks to targeted HR policies and more awareness, we improved the gender balance in leadership positions.

Office

The building we occupy is a listed monument. Our landlord, a green organisation, is working to make the building more sustainable while adhering to the legal requirements for monument preservation. This process is gradual and requires patience.

Our organisation is committed to corporate responsibility, continuously seeking improvements wherever possible. For office catering, we only serve vegetarian and increasingly vegan options, prioritising organic and locally-sourced products. Our coffee beans are provided by Café del Mar, in collaboration with the NGO Solidaridad.

When renting meeting rooms with catering, we ensure that organic and local products are used.

Procurement

The procurement of office supplies is focused on circular and sustainably produced products. Our supplier is Product for Product. 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. Wastepaper is collected separately; bottles go in the bottle bank and batteries in special bins. Paper processing is done by De Graaf, a partner of Product for Product. The paper will be processed in a factory from which circular paper products are made and sold on Product for Product's website.

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

All our 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 them.

We have set the following targets for 2025:

- 1. Climate-neutral office: do circular scan of the office footprint and look at our digital emissions.
- 2. Improve waste streams.
- 3. 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.

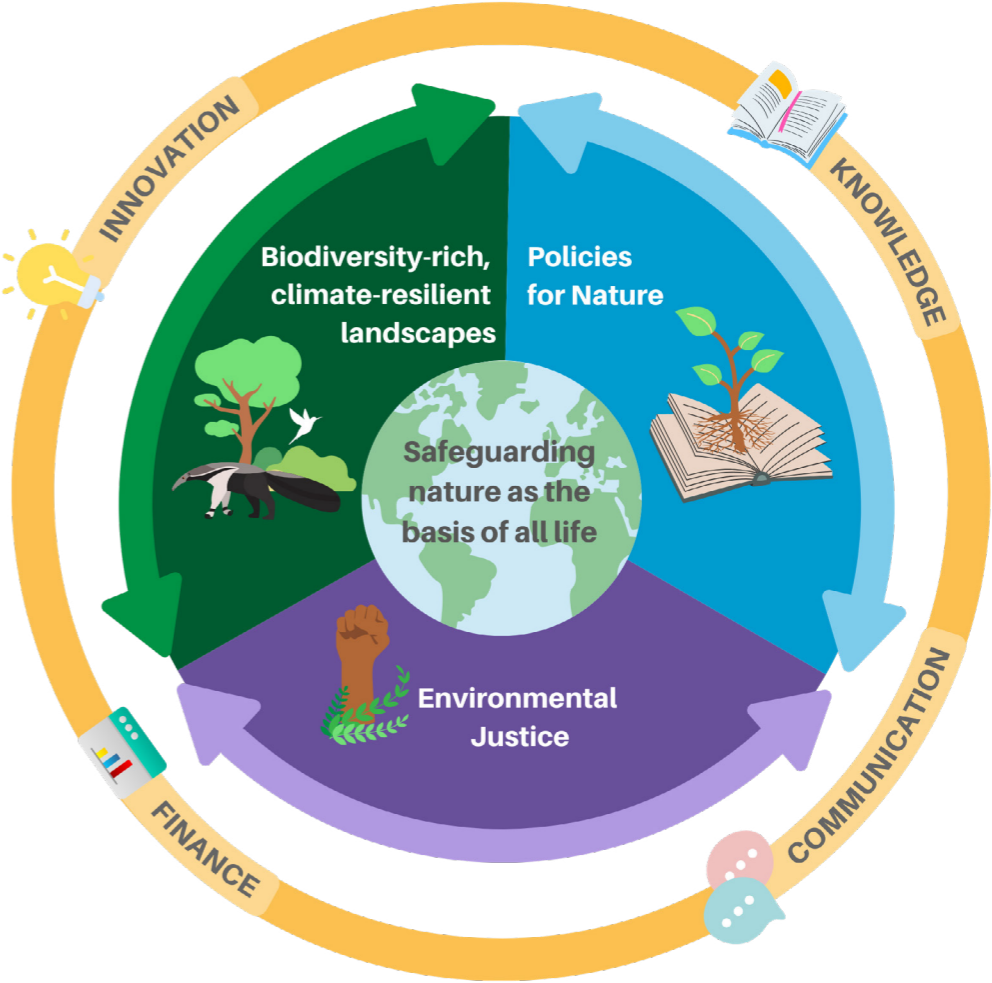
OUR MISSION:  
To collaborate with and support organisations and societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

To achieve our mission, we are focusing on three pathways:

- A. Biodiversity-rich, climate-resilient landscapes
- B. Policies for nature
- C. Environmental justice

And four key enablers for change:

- Finance
- Innovation
- Communication
- Knowledge



# A GLOBAL UNION

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. By harnessing the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,400 member organisations in 160 countries and the input of some 17,000 experts, IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it.

Thanks to its unique composition, IUCN provides a trusted 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.

Over 17,000 scientists and experts from around the world and across a wide range of disciplines volunteer their expertise as members of an [IUCN Commission](#).

In the Netherlands, IUCN NL serves as the platform for 37 IUCN member organisations, which form the National Committee of the Netherlands. This committee includes large and small-scale nature organisations, the Dutch government and knowledge institutions.

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.

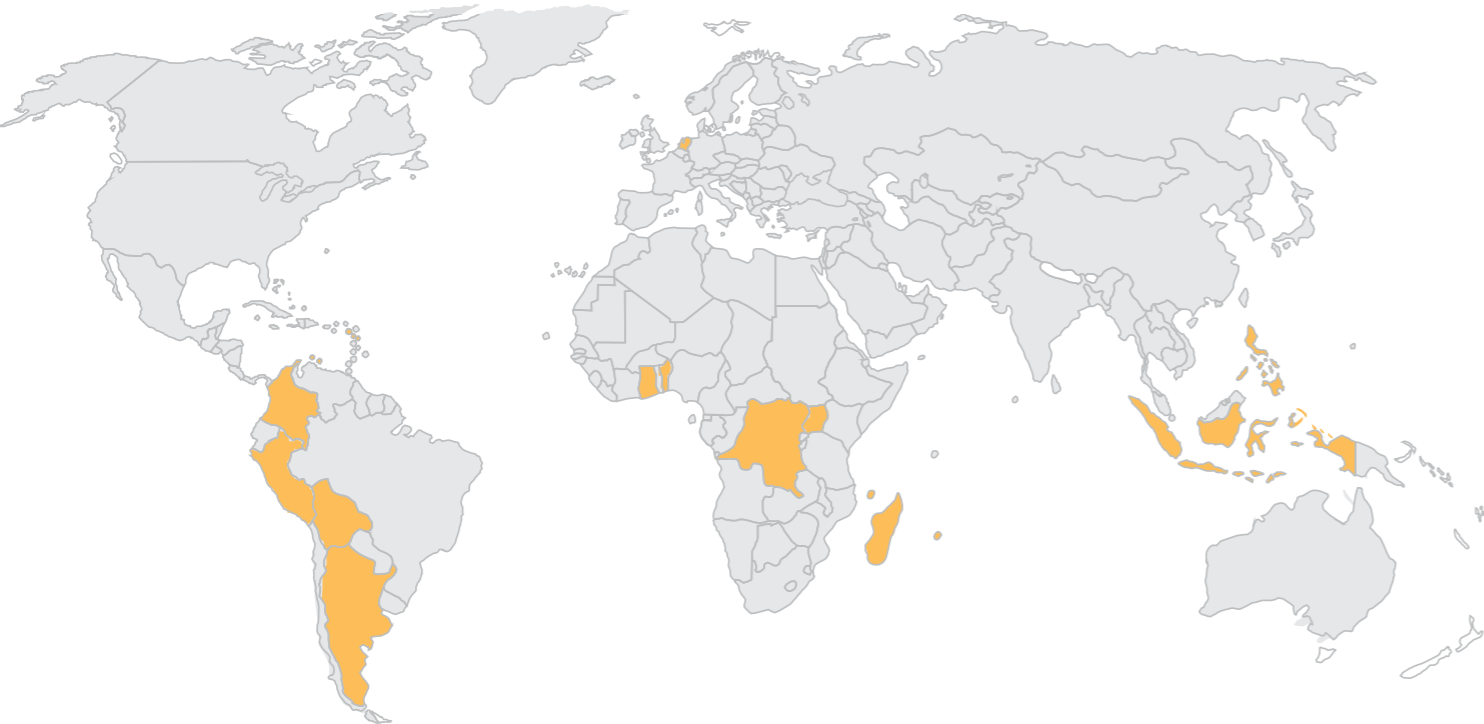
In 2024, we worked with our partners in twelve countries in Africa, nine in Asia, eleven in Latin America, and one in Europe.

**In 2024, we worked with our partners  
in twelve countries in Africa, nine in Asia, eleven  
in Latin America, and one in Europe.**



Bird's nest Upemba, DRC © Paul Villaespesa IUCN NL

COUNTRIES IN WHICH IUCN NL RUNS PROJECTS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS



**LATIN AMERICA:**

Argentina  
Bolivia  
Colombia  
Peru

**AFRICA:**

Benin  
Comoros  
Congo (D. Rep.)  
Ghana  
Madagascar  
Mauritius  
Uganda  
Seychelles

**EUROPE:**

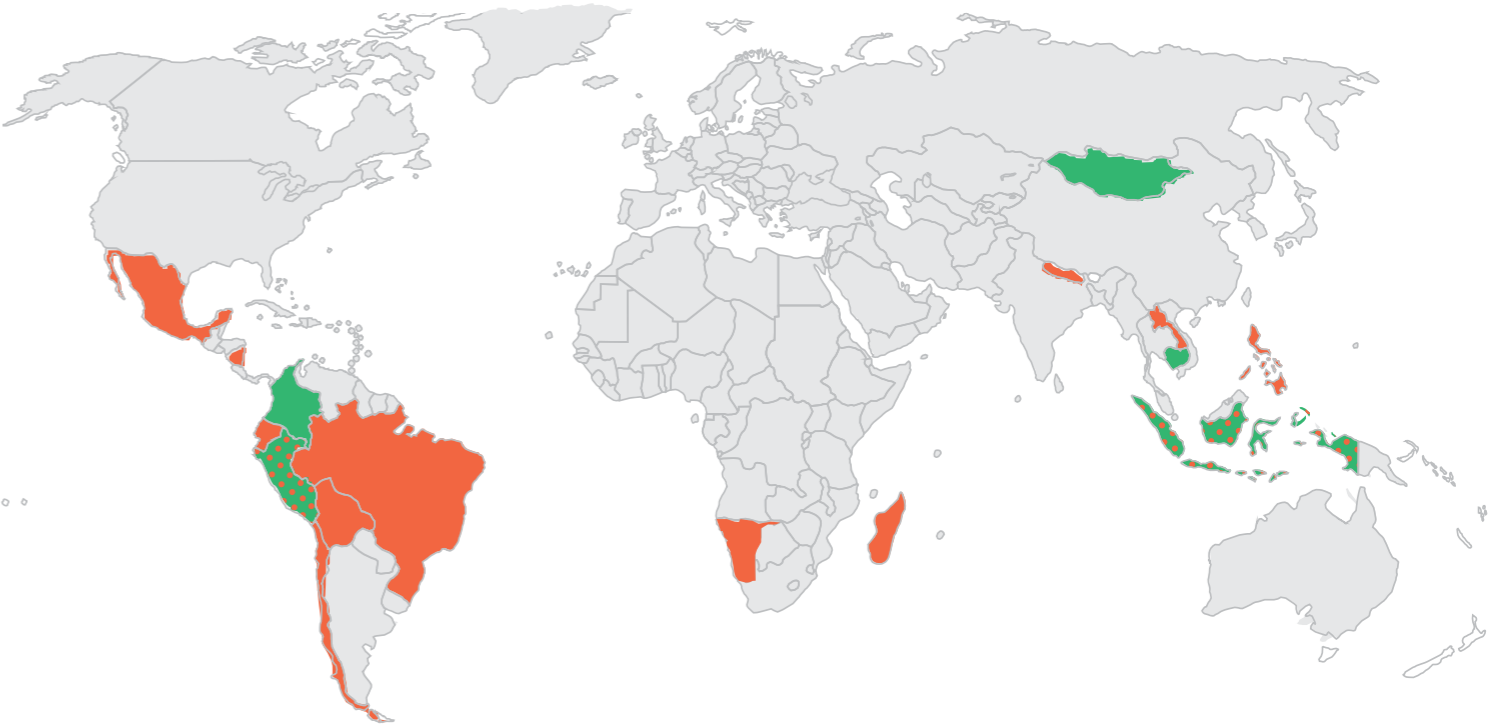
The Netherlands

**ASIA:**

Indonesia  
Philippines

● Country in which IUCN NL runs projects

COUNTRIES IN WHICH IUCN NL SUPPORTED CONSERVATION NGOS AND/OR LOCAL GROUPS THROUGH THE LAND ACQUISITION FUND AND/OR GREEN LIFELINE ACTION FUND IN 2024



**LATIN AMERICA:**

Bolivia  
Brazil  
Chile  
Colombia  
Peru  
Nicaragua  
Ecuador  
Mexico

**AFRICA:**

Madagascar  
Namibia

**ASIA:**

Cambodia  
Laos  
Indonesia  
Philippines  
Nepal  
Mongolia

● Supported by the Land Acquisition Fund  
● Supported by the Green Lifeline Action Fund

## COLOPHON

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