

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

IUCN NL



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FOREWORD

We all want a thriving, healthy planet for generations to come. Yet, as in previous years, 2025 has presented significant challenges to our shared goal of safeguarding nature for all life on Earth. At the same time, we continue to see powerful signs of hope. Meeting today's challenges requires working together through a strong network of civil society organisations, trusted partnerships, and the support of dedicated donors.

IUCN NL operates in a rapidly changing global landscape, where ecological, political, and societal dynamics are deeply intertwined. Globally and in the Netherlands, civil society is facing increasing risks and a shrinking operational space, while biodiversity continues to decline at an alarming rate.

In 2025, we continued strengthening our holistic approach working with local partners to advance nature conservation and sustainable development, while supporting those defending human and environmental rights on the frontline.

Biodiversity lies at the heart of our mission. The biodiversity crisis, however, cannot be addressed in isolation from the climate crisis. This was central to the Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C) programme, that celebrated its ongoing impact during a closing event in December.

We must work together strategically to meet the challenges ahead. In October, 10,000 conservationists, government representatives, business leaders, and others were in Abu Dhabi at the 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Here, IUCN NL represented the 41 IUCN members in the Netherlands and hosted multiple events.

IUCN members also voted for the 20-year strategic vision developed by IUCN: [Unite for Nature on the path to 2045](#). It outlines how IUCN is uniquely placed to collectively deliver change, through scaling up our work and addressing the drivers of biodiversity loss. As the Dutch National Committee of the IUCN, we have a valuable mandate in translating this vision into our work around the globe and in the Netherlands.



Tandayapa Andes toad in Ecuador © Ross Maynard / Ecominga

Nature's Heartbeat kicked off in the summer. With this groundbreaking programme, we are working towards a world where grassroots conservationists in key biodiversity areas are firmly embedded in the global conservation movement. At its core lies trust-based funding.

We also contributed to Nature-based Solutions in the Netherlands and beyond, collaborated with Indonesian CSOs on inclusive and sustainable forest management, and supported the work of environmental defenders in the Amazon region, among other initiatives.

Last but not least, 2025 marked the 25th anniversary of the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund, a milestone we celebrated together with partner organisations, donors, and friends at an inspiring event.

Let's continue to unite for nature.

Angélique Laskewitz, Chair Supervisory Board
Liliana Jauregui, Director



Angélique Laskewitz



Liliana Jauregui

New members Management Team

In 2025, two members joined our Management Team. Verian Klaus, Lead Nature Policy & Business Engagement, started in January and focuses on IUCN NL's work in the Netherlands and Europe. Sander van Aniel, Lead Biodiverse Landscapes & Knowledge Management, joined the Management Team in September and will continue working on our international programmes in his new role.



Verian Klaus



Sander van Aniel

We all want a thriving, healthy planet for generations to come.

2025 IN A NUTSHELL

30



Nature's Heartbeat selected **conservation organisations** across 5 countries, in 7 landscapes spanning around 10 Key Biodiversity Areas to receive flexible, trust-based financial contributions.



51

organisations in Madagascar, the Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles were supported with **55 CEPF** grants for ecosystem-based adaptation and conservation projects based on our assessments.



The Green Lifeline Action Fund granted **35 requests** from NGOs, CSOs, and individuals in **19 countries** across Asia, Latin America, Africa, Oceania, and Europe.

30



community salt producers (mainly women) were trained on solar salt production techniques to reduce deforestation impacts linked to traditional saliculture through the AGeReB project in Benin.

2025 IN A NUTSHELL

The Land Acquisition Fund granted 6 new projects securing **2526 hectares** of important habitat of endangered species in **5 countries**.



Between 2020 and 2025, the MoMo4C partners leveraged **20.2 million euros**, sustainably managed **150,000 hectares**, and impacted around **160,000 people** through its most successful business cases.



41.2

million hectares were brought under sustainable forest management through the Green Livelihoods Alliance between 2021 and 2025. The programme has reached more than **262,000 people**, including 13,200 young women and 28,900 young men.



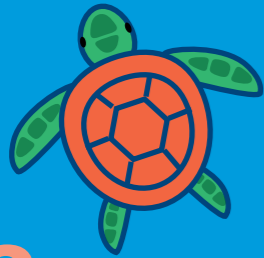
20 policy changes

to safeguard nature were established by the Green Livelihoods Alliance, with our direct support, bringing the programme total to 132.



47,539 visitors

used the Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity since its launch in May 2024.



12 projects totalling **1.2 million** euros were selected to protect and restore nature in Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands through BESTLIFE2030.

4 policy briefs were published by IUCN NL through the REWET programme to ensure that wetland restoration is backed by sound, evidence-based policy.



Our LinkedIn page reached **10,000 followers** in November 2025.

Our website welcomed **138,000 users** in 2025.



Danube Delta © Ivanica Monica from Getty Images

€ 8.97 million in income
 € 9.35 million in expenditure

► More detailed financial information can be found in the financial report 2025 that will be published on our website in June 2026.

Note 1 Preliminary figures. Financial data on 2025 to be confirmed in May 2026, following audit and Supervisory Board approval.

NEW PROJECTS



Nature's Heartbeat | € 4,690,000 | Postcode Loterij | 2025 - 2029

Empowering Indigenous governance in Nembi Guasu and Yande Vari | € 87,652 | DOB Ecology |

EU Regulatory Compliance with Supply chains and Landscape Impact | € 1,531,245 | International Climate Initiative (IKI) | 2025 - 2030

In addition, we also acquired twelve new short-term consultancy assignments, with a total income of € 241,000 in 2025.

Biodiversity Challenge Funds: Indigenous Leadership for Biodiversity Protection in Philippines' Last Ecological Frontier | £ 758,390 | UK Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs | 2025 - 2029

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



Tortoise nesting beach in Indonesia © Jaga Mangkai



Platform for 41 IUCN member organisations in the Netherlands

Management team:

- Liliana Jauregui (Director)
- Verian Klarus
- Sander van Andel (from 1 September 2025)

Supervisory board:

- Angélique Laskewitz (Chair)
- Luc Bas
- Daan van Cann
- Louise van Schaik
- Teo Wams



28 employees

8 employees and 7 interns joined IUCN NL

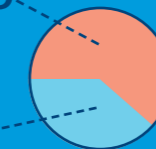
7 employees and 8 interns left the organisation

Average age: 41 (youngest employee 23, oldest employee 67)



54.5% female

45.5% male



January 2025

February 2025

March 2025

April 2025

May 2025

June 2025

July 2025

August 2025

September 2025

October 2025

November 2025

December 2025

6 January
CEPF [update](#): Empowering young leaders to protect Madagascar's biodiversity

8 January
IUCN [Red List](#): One quarter of freshwater animals at risk of extinction

10 January
Rebel [supports](#) the garden dormouse through IUCN NL's Entrepreneurs for Nature

10 January
All MoMo4C consortium and landscape partners meet in Uganda

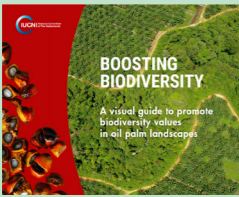
21 January
Bolivian Agro-Environmental Court [rules](#) in favour of Ñembi Guasu

21 January
Khamai [secures](#) Ecuadorian rainforest with support of the Land Acquisition Fund

27 January
[Call](#) for proposals Land Acquisition Fund for projects protecting nature under threat.

6 February
New director Liliana Jáuregui and former director Coenraad Krijger [reflect](#) on past and future

12 February
IUCN NL publishes [report](#) 'Boosting biodiversity: a visual guide to promote biodiversity values in oil palm landscapes'



© IUCN NL

February
The NL2120 programme adopts the IUCN definition and [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#)

5 March
Land Acquisition Funds [announces](#) new projects

6 March
New [report](#): Women in a degraded Amazon: struggles for land, body and nature



© Diego Perez / SPDA

8 March
IUCN NL [celebrates](#) the inspiring work of women on International Women's Day

20 March
Dutch IUCN members meet at the office of EAZA to discuss civic space in the Netherlands

26 March
BESTLIFE2030 launches [call](#) for proposals for conservation projects in the Dutch Caribbean

27 March
Number of fungi species on the Red List of Threatened Species™ [surpasses](#) 1,000 shares IUCN

3 April
Bird Brewery launches [second initiative](#) supporting the Land Acquisition Fund

12 April
IUCN NL receives 4.6 million euros for pioneering conservation project [Nature's Heartbeat](#)

15 April
IUCN NL publishes a [REWET policy brief](#) on aligning efforts for healthy wetlands in the EU



© Andy Willis via Unsplash

28 April
IUCN NL [welcomes](#) three new member organisations

May
Bottom Line! partner AlTo [organises](#) field trip for 21 local leaders from Tompotika.



© AlTo

9 - 10 May
PIDDA Rights partner SPDA [organises](#) first course for environmental defenders in Madre de Dios

14 May
IUCN NL [reflects](#) on emergency funding provided to 33 organisations and individuals through the Green Livelihoods Alliance

4 June
CEPF [update](#): Community-led forest restoration in the lower Onilay Basin .

9 June
BESTLIFE2030 [supports](#) introducing syntropic agroforestry in St. Eustatius

18 - 19 June
Bottom Line! organises theatre performance [THIS IS NOT A TRIAL](#) in Utrecht



© Bart Weerdenburg

4 July
Indonesian partners [reflect](#) on 15 years Strategic Partnerships

18 July
Open call for [proposals](#) for projects in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean Islands funded by CEPF



© O Langrand

21 July
Calling attention for the [water conflict](#) and the cost of commodity production in Chiquitania, Bolivia

14 August
CEPF organises [online workshop](#) on Gender-responsive Ecosystem-based Adaptation

26 August
NL2120 consortium shares how Nature-based Solutions can [address water management challenges](#) during World Water Week

26 August
IUCN NL expert Antoinette Sprenger is [interviewed](#) about the International Responsible Business Conduct for the Renewable Energy

2 - 4 September
Director Liliana Jáuregui [discusses](#) environmental crime at the General Assembly of the Red Jaguar Network in Colombia

15 September
IUCN NL [publishes](#) a REWET policy brief on wetland opportunities through national restoration plans

19 - 20 September
PIDDA Rights [organises](#) course to strengthen the work of environmental defenders in Peru

22 September
IUCN NL [publishes](#) a policy-oriented Theory of Change for effective wetland restoration

3 October
Land Acquisition Funds [celebrates](#) its 25th anniversary at the House of Bird in Amsterdam



© IUCN NL

7 October
Strengthen the Roots [launches](#) Change the Game Academy Green

19 - 15 October
IUCN NL organises [multiple sessions](#) at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025

10 October
IUCN Red List update: [arctic seal](#) species move closer to extinction and increasing risks [threaten](#) European pollinators

13 October
IUCN NL [draws lessons](#) from strategic cross-sectoral collaboration in Colombia

14 October
The nominees for the [International Ranger Awards](#) are celebrated

11 November
The Green Livelihoods Alliance co-organises a [side event](#) at the Climate Change COP30

13 November
IUCN NL shares insights on policies for wetland restoration during [REWET webinar](#)

15 November
IUCN NL hosts session at [Afrikadag](#) with MoMo4C partner WWF-NL

27 November
Reflections on [SDGP webinars](#): lessons learnt, best practices, and ways forward for biodiversity and climate

27 November
IUCN NL collaborates with NL2120 in a [webinar](#) about Nature-based Solutions



© NL2120

2 December
Mobilising More for Climate [celebrates](#) six years of impact

4 December
IUCN NL welcomes Dutch members at its office for a national meeting and end-of-year drinks

8 December
IUCN NL publishes a [REWET policy brief](#) on tackling policy dilemma's for wetland restoration

16 December
Profundo shares updated [soy benchmark report](#) with input from IUCN NL.

17 December
University of Geneva [publishes](#) study on shrinking civic space with support from IUCN NL

Timeline 2025

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS LAND ACQUISITION FUND

In 2025, we have celebrated the anniversary of the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund. Thanks to our donors, we have been able to support local organisations safeguarding nature under threat for 25 years. This would be impossible without the people on the ground: the conservationists on the frontline. 'We support passionate people in realising their dreams, like protecting an endemic, endangered species or saving a threatened ecosystem,' says Marc Hoogeslag, coordinator of the fund.

The Land Acquisition Fund enables local nature organisations in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to secure important wildlife habitat through purchase or long-term lease. By doing so, local organisations and communities protect, expand, and connect the habitat of endangered species and secure the ecosystem services we all depend on.

THE POWER OF SMALLER PROJECTS

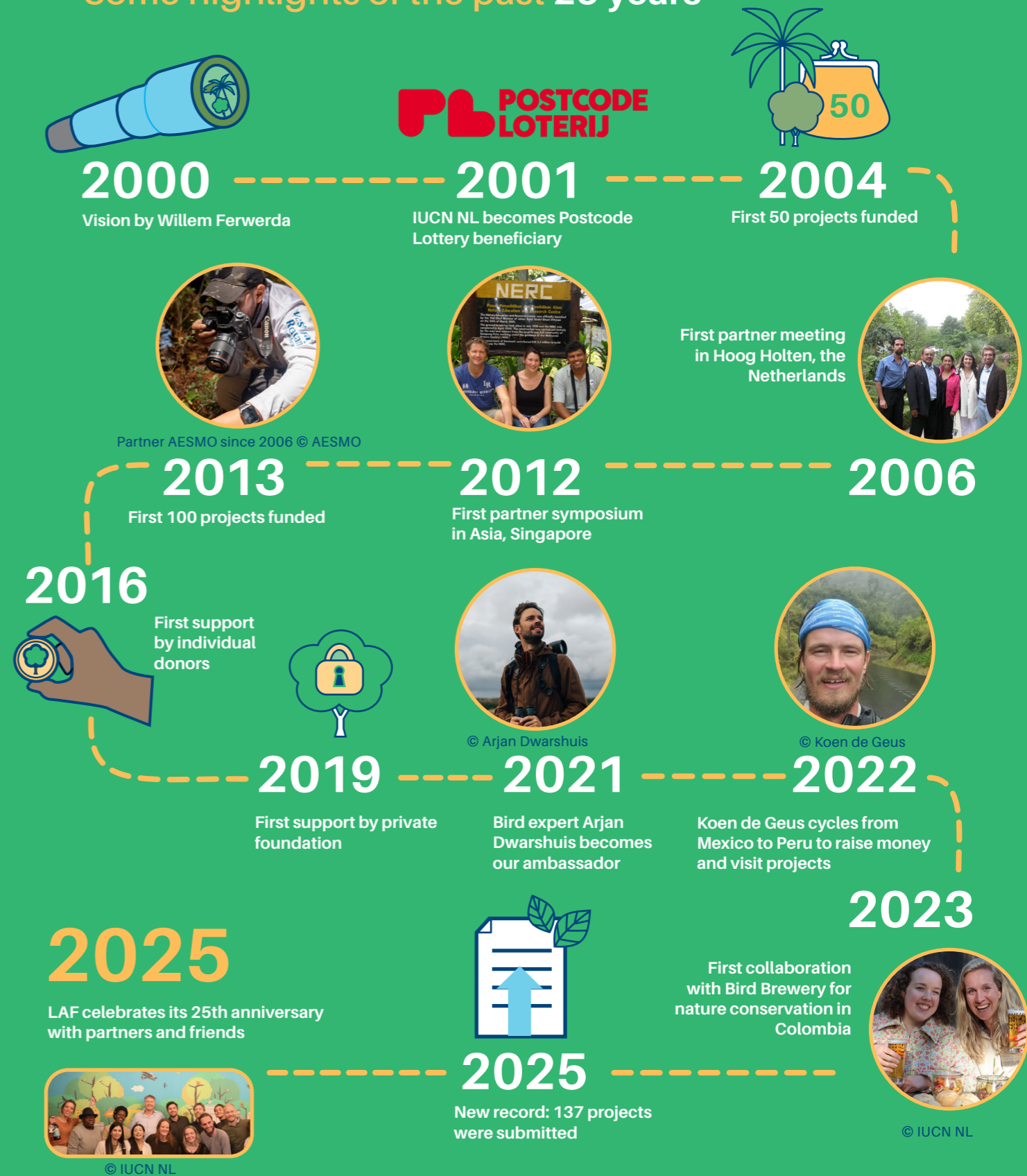
Hoogeslag explains why this is important - especially now. 'Because of the 30x30 target of the International Biodiversity Convention, which aims to protect 30 percent of the Earth's land and marine areas by 2030, many donors focus on protecting large areas. But we should not overlook the smaller projects that often have a huge impact at crucial locations on the conservation frontline. In addition to that, we see that reforestation is hugely popular but we often forget to secure the existing forest first.'

● [Read the full article](#)



Marc Hoogeslag and the Proyecto Washu team in Ecuador © Proyecto Washu

Some highlights of the past 25 years



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 (the Dutch National Committee). We work together to safeguard nature and biodiversity, in the Netherlands and beyond. In 2025, IUCN had 41 members in the Netherlands. We facilitate knowledge sharing and promote the joint defence of shared interests. In addition, as part of Knowledge Programme Basic Quality of Nature, we develop, bring together, and provide access to knowledge on a basic quality of nature in the Netherlands.



- [Avalon](#)
- [Bears in mind](#)
- [Black Jaguar Foundation](#)
- [Carmabi](#)
- [Chimbo Foundation](#)
- [Commonland](#)
- [DCNA](#)
- [Deep Sea Conservation Coalition](#)
- [EAZA](#)
- [Ecosystem Restoration Foundation](#)
- [EFFF](#)
- [Floron](#)
- [Future for Nature](#)
- [IBED](#)
- [IFAW](#)
- [KNNV](#)
- [LandschappenNL](#)
- [Leo Foundation](#)
- [Milieudefensie](#)
- [Naturalis](#)
- [Natuur & Milieu](#)
- [Natuurmonumenten](#)
- [NVBT](#)
- [Nederlandse Vereniging van Dierentuinen](#)
- [The Ocean Cleanup](#)
- [Ouweland Zoo Foundation](#)
- [Prince Bernard Chair](#)
- [Rewilding Europe](#)
- [RAVON](#)
- [Rijksoverheid](#)
- [Staatsbosbeheer](#)
- [SNV](#)
- [SOVON](#)
- [Van Tienhoven Foundation](#)
- [Union of Nature Foundation](#)
- [De Vlinderstichting](#)
- [Vogelbescherming](#)
- [Waddenvereniging](#)
- [Wetlands International](#)
- [WWF-NL](#)
- [Zoogdiervereniging](#)

 **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 is the Dutch National Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the world’s largest and most diverse environmental network. In 2025, we prepared members for the IUCN World Conservation Congress with a number of well-attended national meetings. Together with the members, we responded to the Dutch National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, which we found insufficient to halt biodiversity loss by 2030.



Members meeting in December © Marianne de Beer / IUCN NL

During a well-attended national meeting, Dutch IUCN members exchanged and discussed their experiences with shrinking civic space in the Netherlands. ‘Two members, active in different fields of nature conservation and environmental protection, shared their experiences and concerns about obstacles to their freedom to advocate for nature and climate,’ says Marianne de Beer of IUCN NL. We recognise this as an increasing challenge for members in the Netherlands and across Europe, and remain committed to facilitating dialogue and providing expertise and tools to counter these threats.

THE KUNMING-MONTREAL GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

In February, the [resumed 16th Conference](#) of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in Rome achieved key agreements on biodiversity finance, monitoring, and indicators for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KM-GBF).

The following month, the Netherlands published its Biodiversity Plan, outlining national contributions to global goals under the KM-GBF. While IUCN NL and its members welcomed the plan, they noted a lack of concrete measures. Together, we issued a public response, shared with the Dutch House of Representatives.

Although the plan aligns with international obligations and integrates the EU Nature Restoration Law, it lacks new measures and is unlikely to halt biodiversity loss or achieve restoration by 2030. Accelerated action and stricter protection, including expanding nature areas and implementing Nature-based Solutions, are urgently needed.



Members meeting in December © Marianne de Beer / IUCN NL

IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

The 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress took place in Abu Dhabi in October. Ahead of the event, we organised two online sessions to prepare Dutch members, sharing information on the programme, IUCN’s democratic process, and creating space for exchange among participants. During the Congress, we showcased members’ work at the IUCN NL booth and hosted an informal gathering for Dutch attendees.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work for and with Dutch IUCN members? Visit our [website](#) or contact Marianne de Beer. Email: marianne.debeer@iucn.nl





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 5 • goal 13 • goal 14 • goal 15 • goal 17



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
[all](#)

THE 2025 IUCN WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS: IN RETROSPECT

The 2025 IUCN World Conservation Congress convened over 10,000 participants in Abu Dhabi, focusing on transformative conservation across five interconnected themes: resilient conservation action, climate risk reduction, equity, nature-positive economies, and disruptive innovation. The Congress, held every four years, serves as a global marketplace for conservation science, policy, and practice. IUCN NL, along with Dutch IUCN members and partners, participated in and contributed to the Congress.

The Members' Assembly is the Union's highest decision-making body and brings together IUCN Members to debate and establish environmental policy, to approve the IUCN Programme and to elect the IUCN Council and President. Motions are proposed and if they are adopted, they become a resolution and part of IUCN policy.

MOTIONS ADOPTED

At this year's Members' Assembly 148 motions were adopted, many setting new precedents in global environmental policy. Notable among these was Motion 61, which recognises ecocide as a crime, urging states to amend national and international law to prosecute severe environmental harm. This motion, supported by organisations like Stop Ecocide International and IUCN NL partner A Rocha Ghana, aims to deter reckless ecological damage and align markets with ecological limits.



IUCN NL team at our stand at Congress © IUCN NL

Other significant motions included Motion 104 by A Rocha Ghana on safeguarding biodiversity and human rights in energy transition mineral governance, and motions on synthetic biology; strengthening civic space; addressing climate and biodiversity crises through fossil fuel supply-side measures; and geoengineering.

DUTCH PARTICIPATION AND IUCN NL EVENTS

IUCN NL, as the Dutch National Committee of IUCN, represented 41 member organisations at the Congress, hosting a booth and several events. Some Dutch members also attended to participate in events and the Member's Assembly, while networking, sharing experiences, and fostering collaboration. IUCN NL's four events highlighted grassroots conservation, civic space protection, responsible mineral governance, and gender-inclusive approaches to environmental crime.



Forum session The Ocean Cleanup (Dutch Member) at World Conservation Congress © The Ocean Cleanup



International Ranger Awards Allee des Baobabs Protection and Management Team © IUCN NL

OTHER UPDATES

The Congress launched the Second Edition of the [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions™](#), emphasising systems thinking, equity, and long-term viability. The Congress also saw the latest IUCN Red List update, which revealed growing threats to Arctic seals and birds, but positive trends for green sea turtles and wild bees.

INTERNATIONAL RANGER AWARDS

Rangers also received recognition for the important role they play in protecting nature at the World Conservation Congress. During the International Ranger Awards on 11 October, 2025, rangers from around the world were celebrated for their dedication to nature conservation.

Rodrigue Katembo Mugaruka and ten members of the Allée des Baobabs Protection and Management Team, who we work closely with, were nominated for this award. By supporting these individuals and teams over the years, IUCN NL has helped strengthening their capacity to safeguard critical ecosystems and tackle threats on the ground.

● [Take a look at the nominees](#)

MORE INFORMATION

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



Country **The Netherlands**

Partners

- **Naturalis Biodiversity Center** • **Deltaplan**
- **Biodiversity Recovery** • **SoortenNL** • **Sovon**
- **Vogelbescherming Nederland**, and
- **Wageningen Environmental Research**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 2 • goal 6 • goal 11 • goal 13
• goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4
• target 8 • target 9 • target 10 • target 11
• target 12 • target 14 • target 21

BASIC QUALITY OF NATURE IS CRUCIAL FOR EUROPEAN NATURE RESTORATION LAW

By having to comply to the European Nature Restoration Regulation, the Netherlands faces a huge challenge in restoring nature in a structural and large-scale manner. Achieving this ambition requires a clear baseline for the ecological quality of our environment: a basic quality of nature. This concept provides the ecological foundation for widespread nature restoration. By investing in the habitats of common species in urban and rural areas, we build a more resilient living environment.

Current nature policy in the Netherlands primarily focuses on formally protected areas, such as Natura 2000 sites and the National Nature Network (NNN). In contrast, the Knowledge Programme Basic Nature Quality (BKN - Basiskwaliteit Natuur in Dutch) addresses areas outside these protected zones, including rural and urban landscapes where nature is not the primary land-use function. These areas account for approximately 70% of the country. The concept of basic quality of nature refers to the set of abiotic conditions, landscape structure, and management practices required for common species to remain widespread. When these conditions are absent populations decline and may ultimately disappear from the environment.



Flower garden in soil centre IJkcentrum © IUCN NL

BASIC QUALITY OF NATURE IN POLICIES

BKN does not stand alone, and it is very important that the programme is consistent with existing policies and contributes to existing policy goals. IUCN NL maps this out and provides insight into how the progress of BKN and its contribution to other goals can be monitored. In this way, we show how BKN can be embedded in policy in relation to nature goals.

THE NATURE RESTORATION REGULATION

One of the policies in which a basic quality of nature can play an important role, is the Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR). This EU law obliges Member States, including the Netherlands, to actively restore degraded ecosystems. For many ecosystems outside protected areas where concrete restoration targets are still lacking, a basic quality of nature provides a clear reference point for the minimum level of nature quality required to sustain a functioning ecosystem.

- [Read more](#)

THE CONSORTIUM

The programme is implemented by a consortium consisting of Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Deltaplan Biodiversity Recovery, SoortenNL/Sovon, IUCN NL, Vogelbescherming Nederland, and Wageningen Environmental Research (WENR). Within this programme, IUCN NL focuses on mapping how a basic quality of nature aligns with existing policy frameworks and associated targets.



Strip cropping with flowers in IJkcentrum © IUCN NL

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about **Basiskwaliteit natuur**? Visit our [website](#) or contact **Caspar Verwer**.

Email: caspar.verwer@iucn.nl



Country **the Netherlands**

Partners

- Naturalis Biodiversity Center • Sovon
- SoortenNL



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 14 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 14 • target 21

NATIONAL DASHBOARD BIODIVERSITY: SMALL IMPROVEMENTS, TARGETS REMAIN OUT OF SIGHT



Grutto © Vincent van Zalinge via Unsplash

Despite slight improvements in the ecological quality of freshwater, marshes, and forests, the Netherlands remains behind schedule in achieving its biodiversity restoration targets for 2030. This is evident from an update of the National Biodiversity Dashboard published earlier this year. The online Dashboard provides an overview of the state of Dutch nature, and one year after its launch, new data has been added for almost half of the targets.

The Netherlands has committed itself to targets set by both the EU and the UN to halt biodiversity loss and reverse it by 2030. To achieve these goals, we need to know where the Netherlands stands.

The National Biodiversity Dashboard, a collaboration between IUCN NL, Naturalis, Sovon, and SoortenNL, uses four themes and fourteen targets to show how we can lead the Netherlands towards biodiversity recovery. Although there have been minor improvements in some areas, these are not sufficient to accelerate overall progress in biodiversity restoration.

REDUCTION IN NITROGEN EMISSIONS

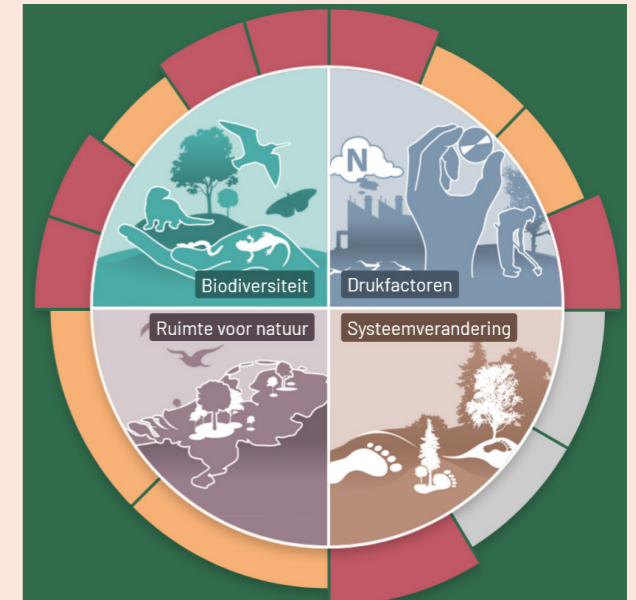
Reducing nitrogen emissions at source is the only structural solution for nature to recover. According to the Dashboard, the reduction in nitrogen oxide emissions is well on track, thanks to measures taken in shipping, industry and road traffic. However, to achieve the targets, measures need to be accelerated. On a positive note, the area of nitrogen-sensitive nature below the critical deposition value has increased; but this improvement is too slow to achieve the 2030 targets.

DECLINE GRASSLAND BUTTERFLIES

The presence of pollinating insects is an important indicator of the health of nature. However, over the past century, the distribution of grassland butterflies has declined by at least 80 percent. Over the past twelve years, the number of butterflies has fallen rather than recovered. The goal for 2030 is to halt the decline and start recovery, but the current trend shows that this will not be achieved.

Extra efforts are needed to restore Dutch nature. The Dashboard provides guidance on biodiversity restoration to the government, businesses, and nature organisations, as they bear responsibility for this. But citizens can also make an important contribution. The Dashboard now also offers citizens the chance to find out what they can do to help biodiversity in the Netherlands.

● [Read more](#)



© Dutch National Dashboard for Biodiversity

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to learn more about the Dashboard? Visit our [website](#) or contact **Marianne de Beer**.
Email: Marianne.debeer@iucn.nl



Country **Caribbean Netherlands**

Partners

• IUCN Europe • OFB • IUCN French National Committee • Consulta Europa • NORDECO



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 15 • goal 17



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4 • target 8

FIVE TO MIDNIGHT FOR NATURE IN THE CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS

With Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius as special municipalities, the Netherlands gained more than 10,000 new species and unique landscapes almost fifteen years ago. From sea turtles to tiger sharks, and from tropical cloud forests to fragile coral reefs; all can be found in this unique area. However, the state of nature in the Caribbean Netherlands is substandard – and too little is being done to halt its decline.

The lagging support for the Kingdom's overseas territories is not only disastrous for biodiversity, but also for climate resilience, food security, cultural identity, the health of the inhabitants, and the prosperity of the islands. These are all closely interlinked.

OBLIGATIONS TO THE CARIBBEAN NETHERLANDS

As the Caribbean Netherlands is part of the Kingdom, the Netherlands has the same obligations to preserve nature and biodiversity for the Caribbean Netherlands as it does for the European Netherlands. For example, the Netherlands is bound by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), which stipulates, among other things, that the impact of climate change on species must be minimised.



© John Anderson via Getty Images

Four strategic objectives have been set in the Natuur- en Milieubeleidsplan Caribisch Nederland 2020-2030 (NMBP; Nature and Environmental Policy Plan for the Caribbean Netherlands):

- reversing the trend of coral reef degradation;
- restoring and preserving the unique habitats and species in the Caribbean Netherlands for current and future generations;
- sustainable use of land and water for the development of the local economy; and
- creating local conditions for sustainable results from nature policy in the Caribbean Netherlands.

In 2025, [an evaluation](#) of the first phase of the NMBP was released, indicating a continuing decline of nature quality on the islands.



© Jan van der Ploeg



Isaw company © Unsplash

BESTLIFE2030

Through an interview with the former director of STINAPA, Jan van der Ploeg, one of our BESTLIFE2030 partners, we raise awareness about the state of nature in the Caribbean territories of the Netherlands. 'All the projects we support through the BESTLIFE2030 funding scheme contribute to improving biodiversity on various islands in the Caribbean. However, financial support from the EU alone is not enough to halt the decline in biodiversity. Action and support from the Dutch government is also needed,' says Casper Verwer, senior expert nature conservation and project lead of the BESTLIFE2030 programme. This EU-funded programme provides funding for projects working on nature conservation and restoration in overseas countries and territories of the European Union to halt and reverse global biodiversity loss.

MORE INFORMATION

Would you like to learn more about BESTLIFE2030? Visit our [website](#) or contact Caspar Verwer. Email: caspar.verwer@iucn.nl



Funded by European Union

This project is funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or CINEA. Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

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 **Honduras**

Partners

• **AESMO**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

goal 6 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS

target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4

AESMO ABOUT 25 YEARS LAND ACQUISITION FUND: 'IT WAS A TURNING POINT'

In 2006, its early years, the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund supported an ambitious NGO in Honduras, which allowed the Asociación Ecológica de San Marcos de Ocotepeque (AESMO) to purchase their first plot of land to safeguard biodiversity and watersheds. It marked the beginning of a new era: in the following decades, AESMO has been protecting an increasing amount of Honduras' forests while applying a unique co-management model.



Guiyasote in Honduras © Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL

In 1987, the Honduran government established the Güisayote Biological Reserve. Without the prior, free, and informed consultation with municipalities and communities, a new protected area of more than 14,000 hectares was created. 'Like most national protected areas, it became a "paper park". Life inside the reserve continued as usual: people continued to farm, deforest, and expand the agricultural frontier,' says Victor Saravia, Executive Director of AESMO.

START OF SOMETHING BIGGER

The grant from the Land Acquisition Fund allowed AESMO to purchase almost 100 hectares of tropical cloud forest in the Güisayote Biological Reserve, in an area crucial for the water supplies of the communities in the area.

The impact went beyond these 100 hectares, according to Saravia: 'It was a turning point.' Numerous land acquisition projects funded by various donors expanded the reserve in the following years. From a "paper park" the reserve became a well-managed reserve with a unique co-management model. Together with local communities, AESMO currently manages more than 2,000 hectares purchased for biodiversity, water, and soil conservation.

● [Read the full article](#)

25 YEARS LAND ACQUISITION FUND

The main causes of biodiversity loss worldwide are the loss and degradation of habitat. This threatens many animal and plant species with extinction. For 25 years, the Land Acquisition Fund has been supporting NGOs like AESMO around the world to purchase land or lease it for a longer period. This allows them to protect, connect, and restore nature at risk. Since 2001, the IUCN NL Land Acquisition Fund has financed more than 167 projects in 43 countries, protecting nearly 61,000 hectares of nature.



AESMO staff in the field © Stephanie Broekarts / IUCN NL

SUPPORTING CONSERVATIONISTS ON THE FRONTLINE

The support of the Land Acquisition Fund enables passionate conservationists to safeguard the habitat of endangered and vulnerable species. These conservation heroes often work in challenging conditions where safety is far from self-evident. These people, with 'fire in the belly', make the difference. 'Securing important ecosystems is impossible without the conservationists on the frontline,' says Marc Hoogeslag, coordinator of the Land Acquisition Fund. In 2025, the fund of IUCN NL supported five new projects, three of which were implemented in Asia. The local conservation NGOs work closely with the communities in the area.

● [Read more](#)

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



Country **St. Maarten**

Partners

• EPIC

IMPROVING NESTING HABITAT FOR SEABIRD SPECIES ON ST. MAARTEN

The least turn and the Caribbean brown pelican are seabird species that struggle with the decreasing abundance of nesting places on St. Maarten. Environmental Protection in the Caribbean (EPIC) receives support from the BESTLIFE2030 programme to realise a nesting platform in the Simpson Bay Lagoon for the least tern and to replace invasive grasses with native vegetation for the Caribbean brown pelican.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 15 • goal 17



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 2 • target 4 • target 8

Conservation efforts of EPIC focus on the least tern (*Sternula antillarum*) and the Caribbean brown pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis occidentalis*). Both species have only one breeding colony on Dutch St. Maarten, and therefore the disappearance of these seabirds would lead to local extinction. EPIC aims to improve the breeding success of these two seabird species.

CREATING SAFE BREEDING SPACE

The least tern colony breeds next to the airport of St. Maarten, creating the risk of bird strikes. The EPIC team's desire to create a safe nesting alternative for the species resulted in the establishment of a floating platform, with gravel on top, fences to keep predators out, and wooden decoy birds that should attract the least terns. They installed the platform in the Simpson Bay Lagoon in May 2025, located within visual distance from the airport.



Pelican with chicks © Filippo Milani / EPIC

EPIC also works on increasing and conserving the biodiversity of St. Maarten by planting native vegetation. One of their projects focuses on Fort Amsterdam, the only remaining breeding site of the Caribbean brown pelican on the island, where they host volunteer events to pull grasses that took over Fort Amsterdam and plants native vegetation in those areas. Nest monitoring assessments are done by EPIC to determine whether planting native vegetation helps the pelicans.

MANGROVE PLANTING

Mangroves provide crucial ecosystem services, acting as a buffer against storms and storing even more carbon per unit than terrestrial forests. They also offer shelter for birds and habitat for fish, increasing food availability for seabirds in the long term. However, only a quarter of the mangrove habitat in the Simpson Bay Lagoon on St. Maarten remains intact. EPIC has planted over 1000 mangrove seedlings using a plastic tubing method, achieving an 85 percent survival rate. Every additional tree is a vital ecological contribution for St. Maarten.

● [Read more](#)



Volunteer event © Colby Poerom / EPIC

THE BESTLIFE2030 PROGRAMME

This project is part of the BESTLIFE2030 programme. It is funded by the [EU LIFE-programme](#), a European environmental and climate action grant programme, and provides funding for nature conservation and restoration in overseas countries and territories of the European Union to stop and reverse global biodiversity loss.

MORE INFORMATION

Would you like to learn more about BESTLIFE2030? Visit our [website](#) or contact [Caspar Verwer](#).
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Funded by European Union

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Country [Philippines](#) • [Indonesia](#) • [Uganda](#)

• [Ghana](#) • [Bolivia](#)

Partners

- [Armonia Bolivia](#) • [A Rocha Ghana](#)
- [ECOTRUST](#) • [NTFP-EP](#)



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
[goal 8](#) • [goal 15](#) • [goal 10](#) • [goal 17](#)



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
[target 1](#) • [target 2](#) • [target 3](#) • [target 4](#) • [target 9](#) • [target 19](#)



Island forest in Ode Mamore savannas © Armonia Bolivia

NATURE'S HEARTBEAT KICKS OFF: PIONEERING IN TRUST-BASED FUNDING

In 2025, IUCN NL embarked on a new programme called Nature's Heartbeat. Together with our trusted partner organisations, we aim to embed local conservationists into the fabric of global conservation. This programme is possible thanks to an additional contribution of 4.6 million euros from the Postcode Lottery.

The pressure on environmental defenders is increasing dramatically, driven by climate change, political crises, and increasing demand for resources. The impact these people make on the frontlines of biodiversity conservation is essential for conservation and restoration on a global level. They are the beating heart of conservation: Nature's Heartbeat. With this new programme, we aim to strengthen the influence of these people and their organisations within the international conservation community.

TRUST-BASED FUNDING

IUCN NL has been supporting various civil society organisations and Indigenous and local communities with capacity building, coaching, and funding for many years. We do this together with partner organisations such as Armonia in Bolivia, A Rocha Ghana in Ghana, Ecotrust in Uganda, and NTFP-EP in the Philippines. Together with them, Nature's Heartbeat is building on this strong foundation.

Nature's Heartbeat is founded on the principles of trust-based funding. We assume trust in the vision, agenda, and capacities of conservationists. This trust-based funding, combined with customised capacity building, gives them the opportunity (time and space) to further develop and grow.

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS

For Nature's Heartbeat, we selected landscapes in five countries that host important Key Biodiversity Areas. These areas are threatened by a combination of deforestation for agriculture, mining activities, and climate change. A lack of good governance and the loss of local knowledge and structures are also affecting the natural areas. We will work with three partner organisations to make a difference for the important and fragile biodiversity in of all these landscapes. Here, conservationists work endlessly to protect nature.

Sander van Andel leads the programme: 'Thanks to this extra contribution from the Postcode Lottery, Nature's Heartbeat enables us to go a step further in strengthening local conservation organisations – with trust at its base. That sounds obvious, but in the conservation world trust-based funding is certainly not yet commonplace.'



In-person meeting in Amsterdam © IUCN NL



ECOTRUST installing trapcamera in Uganda © Andrew Kartende / IUCN NL

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about Nature's Heartbeat? Visit our [website](#) or contact **Sander van Andel**.

Email: sander.vanandel@iucn.nl.



Country **Madagascar**

Partners

• **TAF0 MIHAAVO Haute Matsiatra**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 13 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 2 • target 3 • target 4 •
target 8 • target 10 • target 11 •
target 19

EMPOWERING SUSTAINABLE FOREST GOVERNANCE EFFORTS IN MADAGASCAR

TAF0 MIHAAVO is a federation of community-based organisations in Madagascar focused on sustainable natural resource management. By playing a pivotal role in empowering local communities through capacity-building and reinforcing governance structures, livelihoods are improved while Madagascar's unique biodiversity is safeguarded.

Madagascar possesses an astounding number of species, many of which are endemic to the island. But, due to unsustainable agriculture, governmental mismanagement, and a resulting downward spiral of ecological degradation, severe poverty, and endemic hunger, the island's unique biodiversity is under threat – further exacerbated by climate change.

MOBILISING AND EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY

Well-informed citizens can play a crucial role in enforcing legislation and regulations designed to protect nature and ecosystems. Local people not only understand the local socio-political context better than anyone else, but are also the most effective drivers of change. This is why the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) targets these issues by mobilising and empowering civil society.

Supported by CEPF, IUCN NL and partners in Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles are guiding ecosystem-based adaptation and conservation projects in this biodiversity hotspot.

REDUCING ANTHROPOGENIC PRESSURE

In Madagascar, TAFO MIHAAVO Haute Matsiatra leads a project aiming to promote sustainable governance practices in the peripheral communities of the Fandriana Vondrozo Forest Corridor. The primary goal of the project is to reduce the anthropogenic pressure. In this case, this means preventing people from migrating into the forest, through updating the existing management plan and enforcing internal regulations.

TAFO MIHAAVO has managed to set up a network of informants with the independent anti-corruption office and ten local natural resource management organisations. They have also joined the Haute Matsiatra regional bushfire control committee as part of their commitment to enforcing regulations. In addition, the project integrates income-generating activities such as rice cultivation and beekeeping, benefiting approximately 1,800 individuals.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

IUCN NL leads the Regional Implementation Team (RIT), consisting of partners from Madagascar, Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles. As the RIT, we support the development and oversight of a portfolio of more than 100 grants to non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, academic institutions, private companies, and other organisations on the islands.



Field visit in Madagascar © SAF / CEPF

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work in Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands? Visit our [website](#) or contact Paul Villaespesa.

Email: paul.villaespesa@iucn.nl



Lemur in Madagascar © Jonathan Irish

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 **Global**

Partners

• Staatsbosbeheer • Universiteit Twente • Provincie Friesland • IVN • Universiteit Utrecht • Dordrecht • Natuurmonumenten • Drift • de Natuur en Milieufederaties • AERES • CIVgroep • Van Hall Larenstein • Wageningen Universiteit • Gemeente Rotterdam • ARK Rewilding • TU Delft • HZ Universiteit • WWF-NL • Vogelbescherming • CeO Groep • EcoShape • Natuur&Milieu • Inholland • Deltares • Yuverta • SoortenNL • Delta Platform • HAS Green Academy



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

goal 3 • goal 11 • goal 13 • goal 15 • goal 17



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS

target 8 • target 12 • target 14 • target 18 • target 20 • target 21

PUTTING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL MAP

IUCN NL is one of the partners in the NL2120 programme, one of the largest partnerships on Nature-based Solutions worldwide. NL2120 is a broad collaboration between government bodies, civil society organisations, businesses, and knowledge institutions working to develop knowledge to upscale Nature-based Solutions. Within this programme, IUCN NL leads the international component. A natural fit given our long-standing expertise in Nature-based Solutions, and knowledge in applying the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS) play a vital role in addressing urgent societal and environmental challenges, from coastal erosion and flooding to drought, soil degradation, and urban heat. According to the globally recognised IUCN definition, NbS protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems to effectively solve societal issues for the benefit of both people and nature.

This approach aligns closely with IUCN NL's mission: using healthy ecosystems to support climate mitigation and adaptation while safeguarding the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities.

IUCN GLOBAL STANDARD FOR NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

In 2025, the Second Edition of the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions was launched at the World Conservation Congress, providing an updated, science-based framework for designing and assessing effective NbS.

● [Read more](#)

CAPACITY BUILDING IN GAMBIA: NL2120 IN PRACTICE

A clear example of IUCN NL's international work within NL2120 took place in May 2025 in The Gambia, where IUCN NL and partners supported the restoration of the 11.2-kilometre Kotu Stream as part of the World Bank-funded West Africa Coast Areas (WACA) Programme.

During a five-day capacity-building workshop, around 50 participants, including government agencies, research institutions, community representatives, and technical experts, explored NbS approaches for coastal, riverine, and urban environments. Through mapping exercises, role-play sessions, and collaborative design, they shaped the first elements of an integrated NbS strategy for the Kotu Stream.

- [Read more about the workshop](#)
- [Visit the NL2120 website](#)



Danao Bay, Northern Mindanao, Philippines © Nonoy Panorel / Parts

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work on Nature-based Solutions? Visit our [website](#) or contact [Verian Klarus](#) or [Heleen van den Hombergh](#).

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Verian Klarus



Heleen van den Hombergh

Country **Benin**

Partners

• **Eco-Benin** • **IUCN PACO**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
[goal 2](#) • [goal 11](#) • [goal 13](#)



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
[target 1](#) • [target 2](#) • [target 3](#) • [target 8](#) •
[target 10](#) • [target 11](#) • [target 19](#) • [target 21](#) • [target 22](#)

BLUE CARBON CREDITS AS AN INNOVATIVE WAY TO FINANCE MANGROVE RESTORATION

Mangrove forests are vital ecosystems that protect vulnerable coasts, provide local communities with livelihood resources, and harbour rich biodiversity. Yet a [global assessment of the IUCN](#) found that more than half of the world's mangrove ecosystems are currently at risk of collapsing. This loss is especially concerning because mangroves capture and store large amounts of carbon. There is therefore growing interest in protecting and restoring these vital ecosystems, which can be partly funded through blue carbon credits.

Mangrove forests play a crucial role in climate mitigation by absorbing high amounts of carbon and storing it for a long period of time in their trees, roots, and soils. The combination of rapid uptake of carbon, sediment cover, oxygen-depleted soils, and stable storage make coastal ecosystems so efficient at carbon storage. The carbon that is stored in mangroves, seagrass meadows, and salt marshes is known as blue carbon.

NATURE-BASED CLIMATE ACTION

Blue carbon has great potential for capturing CO₂. For IUCN NL, using carbon credits is one of many innovative ways to combine climate action with biodiversity protection, community appraisal, and coastal ecosystem conservation. In the past years, we have worked with Eco-Benin on its blue carbon project for mangrove restoration in the Bouche du Roy Reserve, part of the Mono Biosphere Reserve. In an EU-funded project, Eco-Benin, IUCN PACO, and IUCN NL work together with communities, companies, and other actors in the landscape on long-term sustainable management and financing of the Mono Biosphere Reserve and the adjoining marine protected area.

OUR CRITERIA FOR WORKING WITH BLUE CARBON CREDITS

When working on blue carbon projects and other Nature-based Solutions, we apply the IUCN standard for Nature-based Solutions and we encourage all projects to do so. The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) has set out criteria for companies and organisations that want to incorporate Nature-based Solutions for climate change mitigation. These criteria specify that companies should only use carbon credits to complement their own emissions reduction. Companies should reduce their emissions first and only compensate rest-emission that is unavoidable.

‘By protecting and restoring coastal ecosystems, IUCN NL not only helps mitigating climate change but also contributes to the resilience of local communities and the preservation of vital habitats,’ shares Jan Willem den Besten, senior expert conservation finance.



Merops albicollis in a mangrove tree © Jan Willem den Besten / IUCN NL



Mangrove seedlings in Benin © Daniel Aboki

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work in Benin? Visit our [website](#) or contact Jan Willem den Besten.

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Country Ghana • Indonesia • Cameroon

• Uganda • Zambia

Partners

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



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 2 • goal 11 • goal 12 • goal 13 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 3 • target 8 • target 9 • target 10 • target 11 • target 15 • target 19 • target 20 • target 23

MOMO4C: SUCCESSES, LESSONS, AND FUTURE AMBITIONS

This year, we celebrated six years of the Mobilising More for Climate (MoMo4C) programme and closed the current phase of MoMo4C. Together with 60 partners and stakeholders, we looked back to our achievements, shared stories about innovative climate and biodiversity finance from the MoMo4C landscapes, and looked into the future of conservation finance.



Murchison, Uganda © Fanny Verkuijlen / IUCN NL

MoMo4C has supported local entrepreneurs in six landscapes in Ghana, Indonesia, Cameroon, Zambia, and Uganda. Dozens of commercial ventures in Nature-based Solutions were supported in frontier landscapes where climate, nature, and local livelihoods are under pressure.

Together with WWF-NL and Tropenbos International, MoMo4C focused on creating business cases to attract public, philanthropic, and private finance. In total, MoMo4C leveraged 19.5 million euros, sustainably managed 148,716 hectares, and impacted 157,325 people through the most successful business cases.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

On 2 December 2025, MoMo4C celebrated its achievements. Speakers Jan Willem den Besten and Paul van der Logt looked back at how this innovative programme started and how important MoMo4C has turned out to be in bringing finance to vulnerable frontier landscapes.

The MoMo4C landscape approach, with a strong focus on creating the right enabling environment for climate and biodiversity finance has proved successful. As speakers from the landscapes, Pauline Nantongo Kalunda, Mercy Owusu Ansah, and Sophia Mutalani Mulundika shared stories about the challenges they encountered and how MoMo4C helped the business cases succeed.

MOBILISING FUNDING

MoMo4C has supported a wide range of locally-driven initiatives, from sustainable cocoa and agroforestry ventures to community-led restoration and water-smart agriculture, with a special focus on women. These efforts have mobilised additional funding, strengthened local capacities, and fostered inclusive partnerships that contribute to healthier, more resilient landscapes. The programme has shown that investing in Nature-based Solutions can deliver tangible benefits for both people and the planet.

- [Read the MoMo4C deal book](#)



Discussion at MoMo4C event in December 2025

© Nadine Kliffen / IUCN NL



Jan Willem den Besten and Paul van der Logt at the MoMo4C event © Nadine Kliffen / IUCN NL

© Nadine Kliffen / IUCN NL

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about Mobilising More for Climate? Visit our [website](#) or contact Jan Willem den Besten. Email: janwillem.denbesten@iucn.nl



Country **Europe**

Partners

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



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 13 • goal 14 • goal 15 • goal 17



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 2 • target 3 • target 8 • target 11
• target 14 • target 21

PROMOTING ACCELERATED WETLAND RESTORATION DESPITE KNOWLEDGE GAPS

The EU Nature Restoration Regulation (NRR) provides political momentum and establishes binding targets for restoring degraded ecosystems, including wetlands and peatlands. However, reaching these targets risks being delayed due to perceived knowledge gaps. IUCN NL's policy brief argues that they should not become an excuse for inaction.

The implementation of the NRR is entering a critical phase, as Member States are finalising the formulation of their National Restoration Plans (NRP) to meet 2030, 2040, and 2050 targets by September 2026. However, knowledge gaps put the achievement of these NRP targets at risk. These gaps include inconsistent definitions of peatlands, fragmented data on greenhouse gas emissions, and the lack of a centralised monitoring database. Policy makers may lack key data to identify wetlands with the highest biodiversity value or carbon sequestration potential. While robust evidence is crucial, these gaps cannot become an excuse for delay – urgent action is crucial for our environment and climate.



National Park Weerribben-Wieden, the Netherlands © Ralf Verdonchot

TWO-FOLD STRATEGY

Through our policy brief, we propose that policy makers and implementers may follow a two-fold strategy that allows restoration action and the closing of knowledge gaps to go hand-in-hand:

- Restoration should proceed based on the best available information. Adaptive rewetting policy and practice can evolve as new knowledge emerges.
- Deliberate support for research and knowledge exchange is needed to close data gaps: this includes developing cross-border data platforms, establishing clear definitions for wetlands, funding long-term monitoring, and training a new generation of wetland experts.

Creative, real-world cases, in Venice Lagoon (Italy), Somerset Levels and Moor (United Kingdom) and Paul da Goucha (Portugal), show that addressing knowledge gaps and manage wetland restoration adaptively is possible.

● [Read more](#)

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. IUCN NL is leading the consortium's policy work.

FROM DATA TO ACTION

During the REWET webinar 'From data to action' on 13 November, REWET consortium partners shared recent insights on wetland restoration, climate impacts, biodiversity, and policy. Our experts Caspar Verwer and Hannah Porada discussed policies that can help the EU effectively restore its degraded wetlands and provided an overview of global, EU, and national policies, as well as policy guidelines and briefs for (sub)national policy makers. Although EU legislation has set important targets for nature and the environment, ambition is diminishing due to decentralisation, the lack of legally binding environmental goals, and sometimes contradictory policies. That is why the IUCN NL team develops policy recommendations to translate existing knowledge and frameworks into effective wetland restoration.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about REWET?

Visit our [website](#) or contact **Hannah Porada**.

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Funded by European Union

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Biesbosch, the Netherlands © Paul van de Velde via Pxhere.com



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 their rights is not without risk. Together with our partners, we work to safeguard the right to a healthy environment for people and nature.

Country **Ghana**

Partners

• **A Rocha Ghana** • **FLOWER**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

[goal 1](#) • [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](#)

A FUTURE BEYOND ILLEGAL GOLD MINING FOR YOUTH IN GHANA

Mining has a myriad of impacts on communities, beyond the more easily discernible effects such as environmental destruction and pollution. For instance, mining communities often see higher rates of sexually transmitted infections and teen pregnancy. FLOWER, a Ghana-based NGO, works in three communities on the edge of Atewa forest on the intersection of environment, health, and gender equality to minimise these effects and eliminate illegal mining activities. Their work was supported by the Strengthen the Roots project.

Illegal gold mining in Ghana is a major environmental problem, where nature and local communities suffer from its impacts as a result. Nature must make way in the search for gold: trees are cut down and deep pits are dug everywhere. 'Farmers cannot grow anything in this polluted wasteland afterwards. In addition, special nature has been lost and wild animals have been driven out of their habitats,' explains William Appiah, a member of Facilitating Learning of Women in Emerging Regions (FLOWER).

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH

Within the Strengthen the Roots project, FLOWER advocates for women and youth in three communities in the Atewa landscape in Ghana: Akanten, Kobreso, and Wamase. These communities all see high rates of illegal gold mining, as many young people struggle to make a living and therefore turn to mining to earn an income.

However, not only does this destroy their natural environment and negatively affect their communities, but it also destroys their future: once the gold is gone, there is little left for them. FLOWER has helped young people in these communities by promoting good health practices and alternative livelihood options, so they have the conditions to protect the environment and the Atewa Forest Reserve.

STRENGTHEN THE ROOTS

Strengthen the Roots, a partnership of A Rocha Ghana, IUCN NL, Natura Bolivia, WACSI, WARSI, and Wilde Ganzen, aimed to strengthen local communities and their organisations that stand up for nature in and around their communities. The project enabled communities to mobilise local support for their work in Indonesia, Ghana, and Bolivia.

In this way, Strengthen the Roots worked on nature conservation that is not performed top-down, but is driven by the collective strength of community organisations. After four successful years, the project came to an end in 2025, with FLOWER being one of the many organisations supported. Strengthen the Roots was funded by the Postcode Lottery.



A poster about teenage pregnancies © Sander van Andel / IUCN NL

CHANGE THE GAME ACADEMY GREEN LAUNCHED

After two years of development and piloting, two new courses on mobilising support and local fundraising have been created, tailored specifically to small community organisations working on the sustainable management of natural resources. The courses were developed by the Strengthen the Roots consortium. In a landscape where funding for these causes is becoming increasingly restricted and challenges for biodiversity remain pressing, these courses fulfil an important role in the sustainability and self-reliance of these organisations. The courses are now available to follow for free.

● [Visit the Change the Game Academy](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work for Strengthen the Roots? Visit our [website](#) or contact [Sander van Andel](#).

Email: sander.vanandel@iucn.nl



Region Bolivia

Partners

• CEDIB



Laguna Caceres, Bolivia © Manuel Seoane

BOLIVIA'S HUMAN RIGHTS UNDER REVIEW: STANDING WITH LOCAL PARTNERS

In June 2025, Bolivia's human rights records came under international scrutiny during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Civil society organisations including IUCN NL's partner CEDIB played a pivotal role in documenting the country's environmental and human rights violations.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 3 • goal 6 • goal 10 • goal 15 • goal 16



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 3 • target 7 • target 8 • target 22

Bolivia is dealing with serious issues regarding the rights of Indigenous peoples, the environment, and environmental defenders, as the UPR report indicates.

Bolivia received 18 recommendations on the environment and the rights of Indigenous peoples, and 25 recommendations on the reduction of civic space and the lack of protection for human rights defenders, including environmental defenders and journalists.

MERCURY POLLUTION AND OTHER THREATS

For instance, mercury pollution has risen dramatically because of the exponential rise in (alluvial) illegal gold mining Bolivia has seen in the last decade. In addition, deforestation and forest fires, resulting from agricultural expansion, negatively impact Indigenous lands, biodiversity, and rural livelihoods. Indigenous peoples and peasant communities suffer the consequences of these extractive activities operating in protected areas and Indigenous territories.

Both forest loss and mercury pollution threaten not only their territories, but also their right to clean water and access to food, particularly in Indigenous populations whose territoriality, lifestyle, and basic food source depend on the Amazon rivers where the greatest impact of gold mining occurs.

SUPPORTING CEDIB

IUCN NL has been supporting CEDIB for almost a decade through the Green Livelihoods Alliance and has also followed UPR processes in other countries such as Ghana, Paraguay, and Uganda. CEDIB has been central in documenting the impacts of mercury pollution and deforestation on IP&LCs, highlighting alarmingly high mercury levels and environmental degradation.

IUCN NL has supported the advocacy process by connecting CEDIB to key EU civil society organisations that follow the UPR process, as well as sharing the report with embassies so they can comment during UPR sessions. We have also worked closely with CEDIB in the Forests for a Just Future programme.

We stand with CEDIB and other organisations in Bolivia that document these environmental and human rights abuses. International solidarity and civil society resilience are and will continue to be crucial in defending environmental and human rights in Bolivia.



Tapping water near Laguna Caceres © Manuel Seoane

MODELLING WATER SCENARIOS IN THE CHIQUITANIA

Deforestation, commodity production, and water scarcity are closely linked. In Bolivia's dry forests of Chiquitania, cattle ranching is contributing to the water crisis, affecting local communities and threatening ecosystems. Together with partner organisations, we have modelled future water scenario's in the Chiquitania. The outcomes confirm that climate change and deforestation are reducing rainfall, raising temperatures, and cutting river flows and soil moisture. Agricultural expansion and livestock ponds further disrupt hydrology. These consequences of declining water availability fall disproportionately on those least responsible for causing the crisis. As the modelling results provide clear guidance for policy and action, we have outlined pathways forward.

● [Read more](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about the [Green Livelihoods Alliance](#) and our work in Bolivia? Visit our [website](#) or contact [Mariel Cabero](#).

Email: mariel.cabero@iucn.nl



Country **The Philippines**

Partners

• **Lilak** • **ATM**

LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES: SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS WOMEN IN THE PHILIPPINES

Philippine forests are among the most biodiverse on Earth, yet they face mounting pressure from mining and deforestation. The country has vast reserves of nickel, copper, and gold – minerals that fuel global energy and digital transitions. Yet much of these deposits lie under Indigenous peoples' ancestral domains, and mining concessions overlap with biodiversity hotspots, critical watersheds, and community farmlands. Indigenous women, often the first to bear the brunt of these threats, are also among the strongest forest defenders.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 2 • goal 5 • goal 6 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 3 • target 10 • target 11 • target 22 • target 23



A woman working the fields in the Philippines © Lilak

For these women, the struggle is deeply personal. Forests provide water, food, and medicine and form the foundation of cultural identity. When mining encroaches, it often jeopardises health, safety, and rights. Women who speak out often face harassment, violence, or displacement. As an Indigenous Teduray woman said: 'If the forest goes, our life goes with it'.

AMPLIFYING WOMEN'S VOICES

In this contested landscape, Purple Action for Indigenous Women's Rights (Lilak), as part of the Forests for a Just Future programme of the Green Livelihoods Alliance, works to strengthen Indigenous women's leadership and protect civic space. Their efforts focus on inclusive forest governance and amplifying women's voices in local and national debates on mining and human rights.

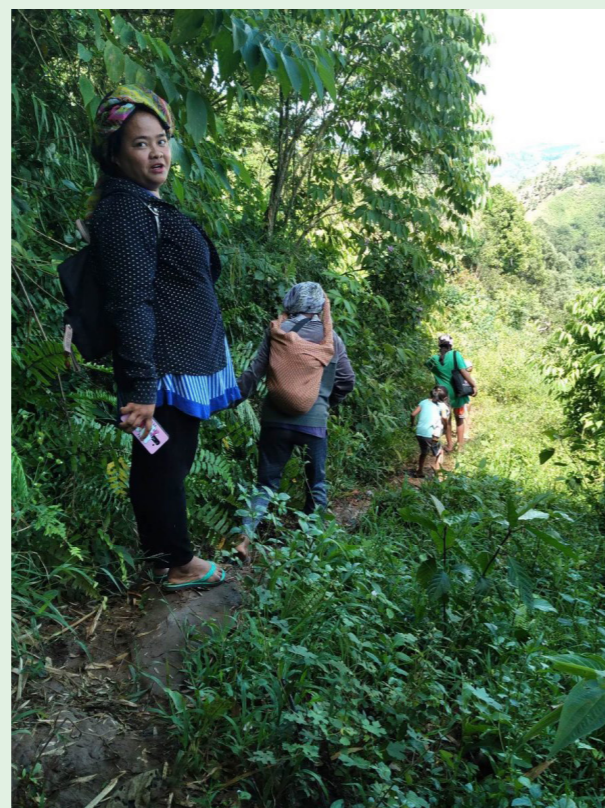
Lilak combines community-based work with engagement in national and international policy and learning spaces. Through the Women and Mining Working Group of Alyansa Tigil Mina (ATM), gender perspectives were integrated into national discussions on mining impacts and partnerships with other CSOs enabled communities to access legal, technical, and advocacy support.

LESSONS FROM THE FRONTLINES

Key insights highlight what sustains Indigenous women's resistance and drives change:

- Care is part of resistance – Collective protection and psychosocial support build resilience.
- Women's leadership changes governance – When women's voices enter decision-making spaces, priorities shift toward rights, livelihoods, and gender justice.
- Local struggles fuel global change – Testimonies from Indigenous women influence local policies, national bills, and international advocacy on forests and rights.

Since 2016, IUCN NL has supported Lilak's mission to strengthen Indigenous women's leadership in forest and land governance. Together, they continue to amplify these women's calls for justice and ensure that defending forests remains inseparable from defending lives.



Women in a forest of the Philippines © Lilak

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work for gender equality and inclusion in conservation? Visit our [website](#) or contact **Frederique Holle**.
Email: frederique.holle@iucn.nl



Country **Peru**

Partners

- **SPDA**

LESSONS FROM A DECADE OF STRENGTHENING ENVIRONMENTAL DEFENDERS IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON

A decade of collaboration between IUCN NL and Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA) in the Peruvian Amazon's Madre de Dios region has yielded a gender-sensitive, intersectional framework to protect environmental defenders facing escalating threats such as illegal activities, land grabbing, and deforestation. Key insights and lessons from the collaboration highlight the urgent need for inclusive protection strategies amid rising violence and shrinking civic space in Peru and globally.



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



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 11 • target 14 • target 20 • target 22 • target 23



Madre de Dios in Peru © Tom Laffay

In the Peruvian Amazon, environmental defenders face escalating threats from illegal activities, land grabbing, and deforestation. Women, youth, Indigenous people, and local communities bear the greatest burden, standing on the frontlines with limited protection and constant exposure to intimidation and violence.

TEN-YEAR COLLABORATION

Against this backdrop, IUCN NL and SPDA have been collaborating since 2016 to jointly develop strategies addressing insufficient protection mechanisms and strengthen existing ones for defenders in Madre de Dios. Our latest efforts, undertaken through the PIDDA Rights project, distills nearly a decade of lessons into a gender-sensitive and intersectional grounded framework to better protect environmental defenders. The approach holds potential for adoption and replication in other regions.

While before essential tools were introduced such as incident reporting systems, emergency funds, and legal support, the efforts under PIDDA Rights included tailor-made trainings from a gender and intersectional approach, as well as on visibility and advocacy efforts spanning local to global scales. The inclusive approach recognised the distinct risks faced by women – particularly Indigenous women – and other vulnerable groups and promoted locally-grounded and culturally-appropriate protection strategies.

Maríel Cabero, expert environmental justice at IUCN NL, states that ‘through these experiences, we have gathered valuable lessons for the integral protection of environmental defenders. They show that when collaborations are cross-regional, rooted in local realities, and intersectional small steps toward better protection are possible.’

● [Read more](#)

PIDDA RIGHTS

The project ‘Inclusive Protection of Environmental Defenders in the Amazon’ (PIDDA by its Spanish acronym) aimed to improve the national protection system for environmental defenders. From 2023 through 2025, we worked with SPDA and two partners in Madre de Dios: Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD) and Comité de Gestión de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata (CDG). This project was supported by the Agence Française de Développement (AFD).

PARTICIPATORY SESSION AT THE IUCN CONGRESS

On 11 October at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, IUCN NL and partners organised a participatory session on the struggles, impact, and role of Indigenous and peasant Amazonian women in the context of drivers of deforestation, pollution, and environmental crime. In Abu Dhabi, Amazonian women shared their experiences highlighting the importance of integrating a gender-inclusive and intersectional approach. Alongside experts from Latin American NGOs, they started the discussion on effective gender-inclusive approaches at the local, national, and international level, including the implementation of the Escazú agreement.

MORE INFORMATION

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



NOT A BLUEPRINT - BUT WITH POTENTIAL FOR REPLICATION IN OTHER REGIONS

Environmental defenders face growing threats in the Peruvian Amazon and elsewhere



4 interconnected strategies to improve the protection of environmental defenders



Country **Peru • Colombia**

Partners

• **SPDA • FCDS • FENAMAD • CDG**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 5 • goal 8 • goal 10 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 11 • target 14 • target 22 • target 23



© IUCN NL

WOMEN IN A DEGRADED AMAZON: STRUGGLES FOR LAND, BODY, AND NATURE

How does gender intersect with deforestation, environmental degradation, territorial issues, and violence in the Amazon region? Topics like deforestation and environmental degradation in the Amazon have been widely discussed. But what has not been substantially discussed is their impact on women.

In March 2025, IUCN NL therefore published a report on gender dynamics in the Peruvian and Colombian Amazon. 'Women in a degraded Amazon: struggles for land, body and nature', available in English and Spanish, applies a gender lens on socio-environmental issues and reveals important insights regarding the realities and challenges that women experience in the Amazon region.

It was a collaboration of Sociedad Peruana de Derecho Ambiental (SPDA), Fundación para la Conservación y Desarrollo Sostenible (FCDS), Federación Nativa del Río Madre de Dios y Afluentes (FENAMAD) and Comité de Gestión de la Reserva Nacional Tambopata (CDG).

HIGH-RISK TERRITORY FOR WOMEN

The Amazon regions of Peru and Colombia, while differing in their sociopolitical and environmental context, face similar challenges that highlight the deep interconnections between gender and environmental issues. The studies show how extractive economies, such as mining and cattle ranching, intensify violence with wide-reaching social, economic, and ecological impacts.

'Extractive activities and gender-based violence are deeply intertwined: illegal mining and agricultural expansion have turned the Amazon into a high-risk territory for women,' explains Mariel Cabero, expert environmental justice at IUCN NL.

KEY FINDINGS

- Women environmental defenders face systemic barriers that threaten their safety and autonomy. Addressing these challenges requires a gender-inclusive approach that strengthens legal protections, improves participation, and ensures equitable access to resources.
- Being a woman in the context of deforestation and environmental degradation adds layers of complexity and struggle, as they fuel gender-based violence.
- Extractive economies driven by illegal mining, land-use change, and agribusiness, exacerbate deforestation and disproportionately impact women's livelihoods.
- In Peru's Madre de Dios, women defenders confront not only environmental destruction but also human trafficking and violence, particularly Indigenous women who face growing insecurity due to illegal mining.
- In the Colombian Amazon, women are further marginalised by restricted land rights and economic exclusion, as land grabbing, illicit crops, and mining drive both social and environmental degradation.

In both study areas, institutional protections remain weak, with corruption and gender-exclusionary policies deepening the vulnerability of women, and leadership opportunities for women are limited. Amplifying feminist women's voices in policy frameworks therefore contributes to a more just and sustainable future for the Amazon.

● [Read the report](#)

LOOPHOLES IN THE AMAZON'S RECYCLED GOLD SUPPLY CHAIN

Recycled minerals are widely talked about as an important stepping stone in building more sustainable value chains. While recycling minerals is vital, the term 'recycled' can also become a convenient label - masking practices that continue to fuel environmental destruction, biodiversity loss, and social injustice in highly-biodiverse regions like the Amazon. In other words, whereas recycling has the potential to make the gold supply chain more sustainable, loopholes risk undermining environmental protection and social justice. In May 2025, IUCN NL pointed to two key loopholes in recycled gold from the Amazon region: an ambiguous definition and weak traceability.

● [Read more](#)

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about our work on gender equality in the Amazon region and beyond? Visit our [website](#) or contact **Mariel Cabero**.

Email: mariel.cabero@iucn.nl





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 our footprint by making value chains greener and more sustainable. In doing so, we work with governments, companies, and civil society organisations.

Country **Indonesia**

Partners

• NTFP-EP • IMUNITAS



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 1 • goal 12 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 1 • target 3 • target 10 • target 16

SUSTAINABLE RATTAN HARVESTING: THESE HARVESTERS SHOW IT IS POSSIBLE

The global demand for rattan is causing major damage to the forests of Indonesia, where rattan grows exclusively in the wild. This unsustainable exploitation is causing the rattan to disappear in some areas, putting even more pressure on the underpaid harvesters. In central Sulawesi, harvesters are demonstrating that rattan harvesting can be done differently.

NTFP-EP, a longstanding partner of IUCN NL, works in Central Sulawesi with local organisations, such as IMUNITAS, and communities on sustainable forest management under the Forests for a Just Future programme. The landscape here is mountainous and the forests harbour Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) such as rattan, honey, and medicinal plants.

SUSTAINABILITY LABEL FOR RATTAN

In 2016, the sustainable rattan certification label (PGS-RoLes) was introduced to the Lariang landscape under the Green Livelihoods Alliance programme. In 2024, NTFP Indonesia, with support from IUCN NL, set up a web database together with the communities. With the help of IMUNITAS, the communities use the database to keep track of the amount of rattan harvested per village, time of the harvest, and which of the five varieties is harvested.

These insights into what was harvested, when, and at what price, gives rattan harvesters a stronger position when negotiating with buyers. The hope is that as PGS-RoLes becomes more widely recognised and adopted, the prices associated with this label will increase too, ensuring that harvesters receive fairer compensation for their work.

● [Read more](#)

LAST BUFFER AGAINST DEFORESTATION

Sustainable forest management is not only important for the sustained availability of harvestable rattan, but also to prevent landslides, caused by increasing extreme rainfall. In general, a revenue model based on forest products is the last buffer against deforestation. The web database is a valuable tool for rattan buyers who prioritise sustainability, enabling them to trace the origin of a batch of rattan and gain insight into its harvest.



Rattan seedling in East Kalimantan © Wahyu Widhi / NTFP-EP

FORESTS FOR A JUST FUTURE

Through the Forests for a Just Future programme by the Green Livelihoods Alliance, which ran until 2025, IUCN NL has contributed to a more sustainable and inclusive governance of tropical forests, in a way that promotes climate mitigation, water provisioning, biodiversity, and human rights, which safeguards the livelihoods of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs). The programme was built on the Forested Landscapes for Equity programme that was implemented from 2016 to 2020, creating nearly a decade of impact for tropical forests.

MORE INFORMATION

Do you want to know more about the Forests for a Just Future programme or our work in Indonesia? Visit our [website](#) or contact Femke Schouten. Email: femke.schouten@iucn.nl.




Country Global

Partners

• A Rocha Ghana • Natuur & Milieu • EcoJustice • DSCC • Wetlands International • NTFP-EP • FARN • Stichting Chimbo • AFIEGO

IUCN MEMBERS ADOPT RESOLUTION TO PROTECT BIODIVERSITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ENERGY TRANSITION MINERAL GOVERNANCE

At the World Conservation Congress in Abu Dhabi in October 2025, IUCN members adopted a resolution with overwhelming majority of votes to safeguard biodiversity and human rights in energy transition and mineral governance. The groundbreaking resolution, proposed by A Rocha Ghana, urges governments and civil society to ensure the shift to renewable energy does not compromise planetary health and human rights.



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 the environment in Sulawesi © Garry Lotulung

We need to accelerate the transition from fossil to renewable energy. To achieve a just energy transition, ecologically sound mineral governance that upholds national protections for ecosystems, water, biodiversity, and IP&LC rights is critical to ensuring planetary health and achieving climate goals.

RESPONSIBLE MINERAL GOVERNANCE

The resolution calls for reducing energy and mineral use through a circular economy and promoting socially and ecologically sound mineral governance. It emphasises protecting ecosystems, water, biodiversity, and the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LCs).

Key measures include designating no-go zones for mining in ecologically or culturally significant areas, ensuring the rights and meaningful participation of IP&LCs, and requiring mining and post-mining practices to meet the highest human rights and environmental standards.

The resolution also requests the IUCN Director General to develop guidance on responsible governance of energy transition minerals and foster collaboration among governments, companies, communities, and civil society.

RALLY LOCAL AND GLOBAL EFFORTS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

‘This resolution is an important step towards safer and more just mineral governance,’ says Seth Appiah-Kubi, National Director of A Rocha Ghana. ‘Mining brings economic benefits and supports the energy transition, but often at high costs to communities and biodiversity. We must rally local and global efforts to implement the resolution, which is up to IUCN, the commissions and IUCN’s members.’

Maartje Hilterman, senior expert environmental justice at IUCN NL, adds: ‘We are pleased to see broad support within IUCN for action on this critical issue. We will continue working with partners like A Rocha Ghana to drive positive change’.

MANDATE FOR IUCN

The resolution gives IUCN a clear mandate to promote the safeguarding of planetary health in mineral governance. IUCN NL and its partners will keep raising awareness, building capacity, engaging governments and industries, and supporting IP&LCs affected by mining.

This milestone was achieved through the Bottom Line! project, in which we collaborated with civil society to advance ecologically and socially responsible mineral governance.

- [Read the resolution](#)

A FICTIONAL CASE ON ECOCIDE

IUCN NL, in partnership with Utrecht University (UU), EcoJustice, and Indonesian partner ALTo initiated This Is Not a Trial, a theatre performance exploring ecocide in the context of the energy transition. In June 2025, UU students portrayed a fictional trial of a Dutch multinational and its CEO for environmental destruction linked to nickel mining in Sulawesi [using the proposed Dutch ecocide bill](#), highlighting ecosystem destruction, social impacts, and consumer responsibility. Legal drama alternated with artistic interludes and community voices, including that of the endangered maleo bird. Audience members acted as jurors in a survey that revealed nuanced public views on ecocide, guilt, and consumer responsibility.

- [Read more](#)

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

Country **Global**



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
goal 2 • goal 12 • goal 15



GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK TARGETS
target 2 • target 9 • target 10 • target 21



© IUCN NL

VISUAL GUIDE TO BOOSTING BIODIVERSITY IN PALM OIL LANDSCAPES

In 2023, more than 30 million hectares of land worldwide were covered by oil palm plantations. How can biodiversity be enhanced within these existing landscapes? In response to this challenge, IUCN NL published the report ‘Boosting Biodiversity: A Visual Guide to Promote Biodiversity Values in Oil Palm Landscapes’ in February 2025.

Oil palm plantations overlap with the world’s most biodiversity-rich areas and expansion of plantations continue to open new frontiers. They have been an important, but not the sole driver of biodiversity loss, peatland degradation, and landscape fragmentation, and its impact has been locally specific.

RESPONSIBLE PALM OIL

IUCN (2018) [showed](#) that many species are under threat because of oil palm expansion. At the same time, they pointed out the huge efficiency and potential of the crop. Zero deforestation, peatland preservation, and the prevention of exploitation are fundamental principles for the production of sustainable palm oil. But more can be done: exploring examples and best practices can contribute to boosting biodiversity in existing oil palm landscapes.

AN ATLAS FOR MORE BIODIVERSITY

IUCN NL developed a visual guide focusing on what can be done to boost biodiversity in areas where forest is already cut down for oil palm plantations, showing the potential of these existing plantations for biodiversity in fragmented landscapes. It should not be read as a blueprint, but as an atlas. It aims to inspire new pathways toward more biodiverse oil palm production.

More biodiverse oil palm production:

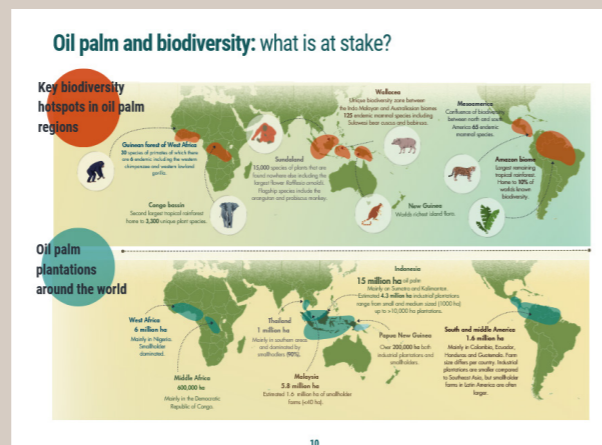
- Does not need to have a negative effect on yields;
- Can even improve ecological functions that benefit oil palm production itself and reduce future risks and costs;
- Is a crucial contribution of the sector to stop and revert the loss of biodiversity.

'With this report, we want to push the debate on sustainable palm oil to go beyond no deforestation and move towards actively including biodiversity-positive practices in already existing palm oil landscapes,' says Heleen van den Hombergh, senior expert agro-commodities at IUCN NL.

● [Download the guide](#)

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



Map from the Boosting Biodiversity Visual Guide © IUCN NL

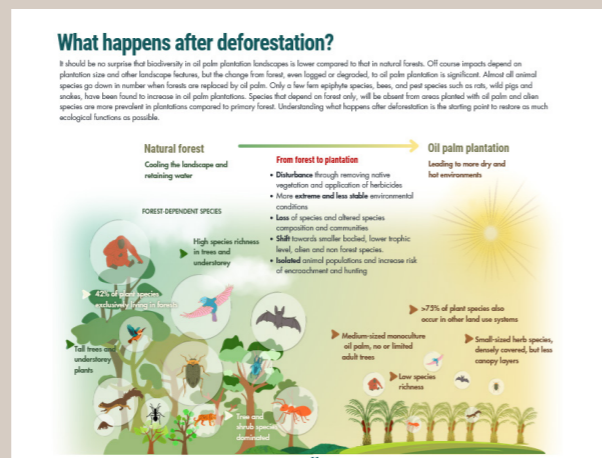


Illustration from the Boosting Biodiversity Visual Guide © IUCN NL



A giant anteater crossing an oil palm plantation © Lain E. Pardo Vargas

ABOUT US



The almost complete IUCN NL team in September 2025 © IUCN NL

WHO WE ARE

In 2025, a monthly average of 30 passionate employees and eight interns worked at 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 INCLUSION

We see diversity and inclusion 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 2025, we employed fifteen women and thirteen men. Thanks to targeted HR policies and more awareness, we improved the gender balance in leadership positions. In 2025, our Management Team consisted of one man and two women, one of whom is the director. The other two remaining management team members (one female, one male) have equally divided Management Team and project responsibilities. Our Supervisory Board consisted of two women, including the chair, and three 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, maintaining professional relationships with civil society organisations, and providing a safe and healthy work environment. This means we take strong action against breaches of integrity and actively work to reduce the likelihood of such breaches. Our two confidential counsellors, one internal and one external, play an important role in this matter. Due to changes in our internal staff, we were without an integrity officer in 2025; however, we plan to appoint one in 2026.

Nevertheless, we held office-wide presentations and group discussions on social safety. 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.

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 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.

We also offset all travel-related emissions, including commuting, energy consumption, and remote working, through the World Land Trust. 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.

We see diversity and inclusiveness as great values. We are proud of the diversity of our workforce.

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. For every 100 euro spent on their website, tree planting points are earned. In 2025, two extra trees were planted as part of a reforestation project in Ethiopia because of our paper waste.

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 it.

We have set the following targets for 2026:

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:

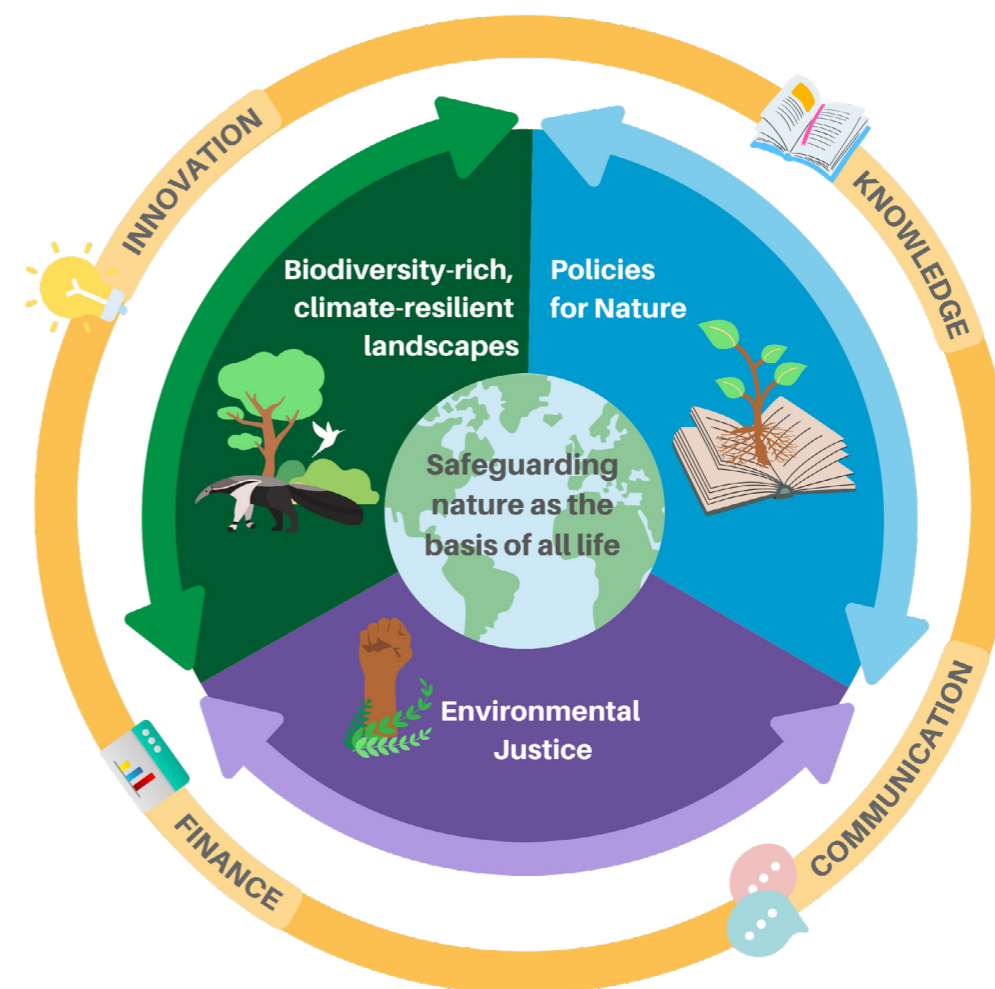
To collaborate with and support organisations and societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

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 41 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.

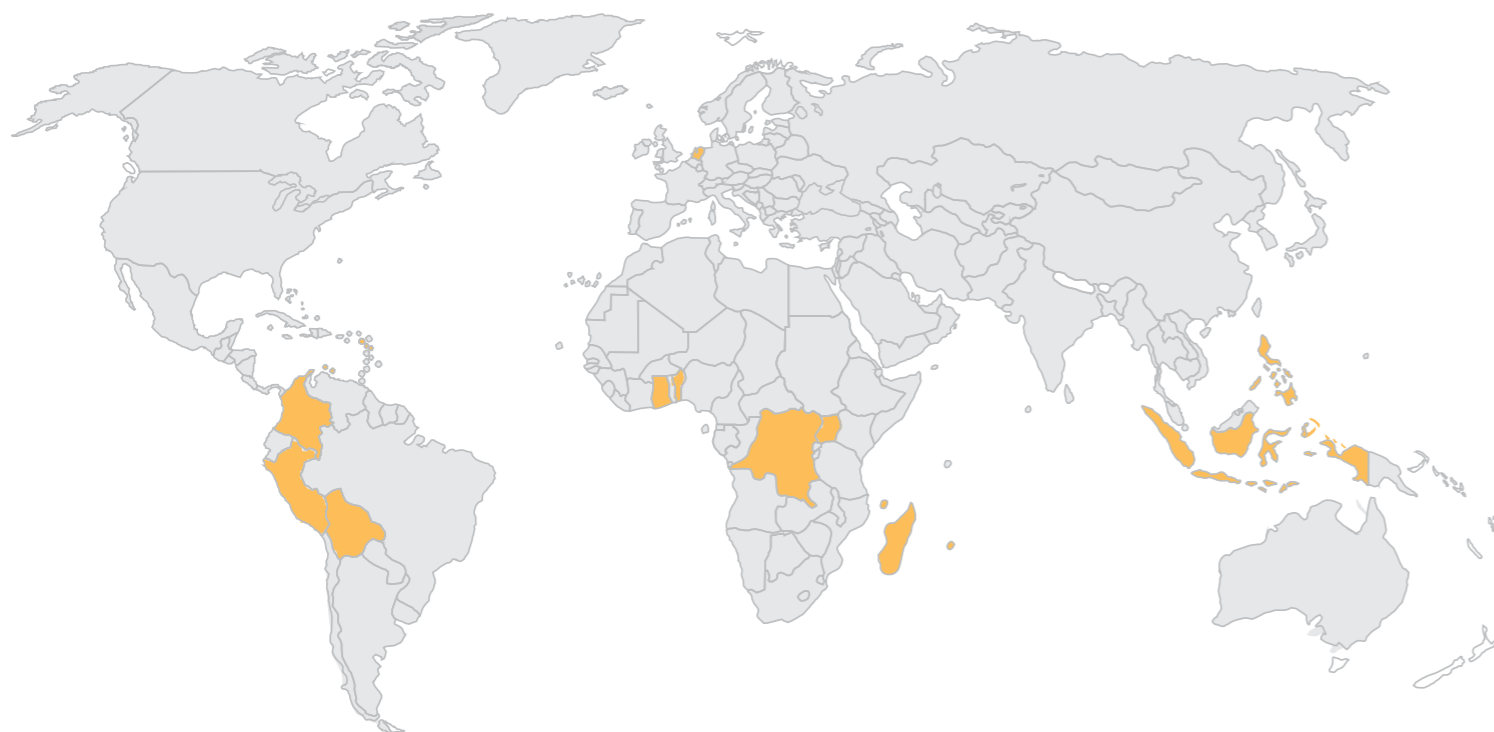
IUCN NL actively cooperates with local organisations in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, Dutch member organisations and other parts of IUCN to safeguard important nature and biodiversity in those regions. Together, we develop international cooperation programmes and attract funding from various donors.

In 2025, we worked with our partners in eight countries in Africa, two in Asia, three in Latin America, and seven in Europe including the Caribbean part of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The countries in which the Land Acquisition Fund (LAF) and the Green Lifeline Action Fund (GLAF) supported projects in 2025 are not part of these figures.

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COUNTRIES IN WHICH IUCN NL RUNS PROJECTS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS



LATIN AMERICA:

Bolivia
Colombia
Peru

AFRICA:

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

EUROPE:

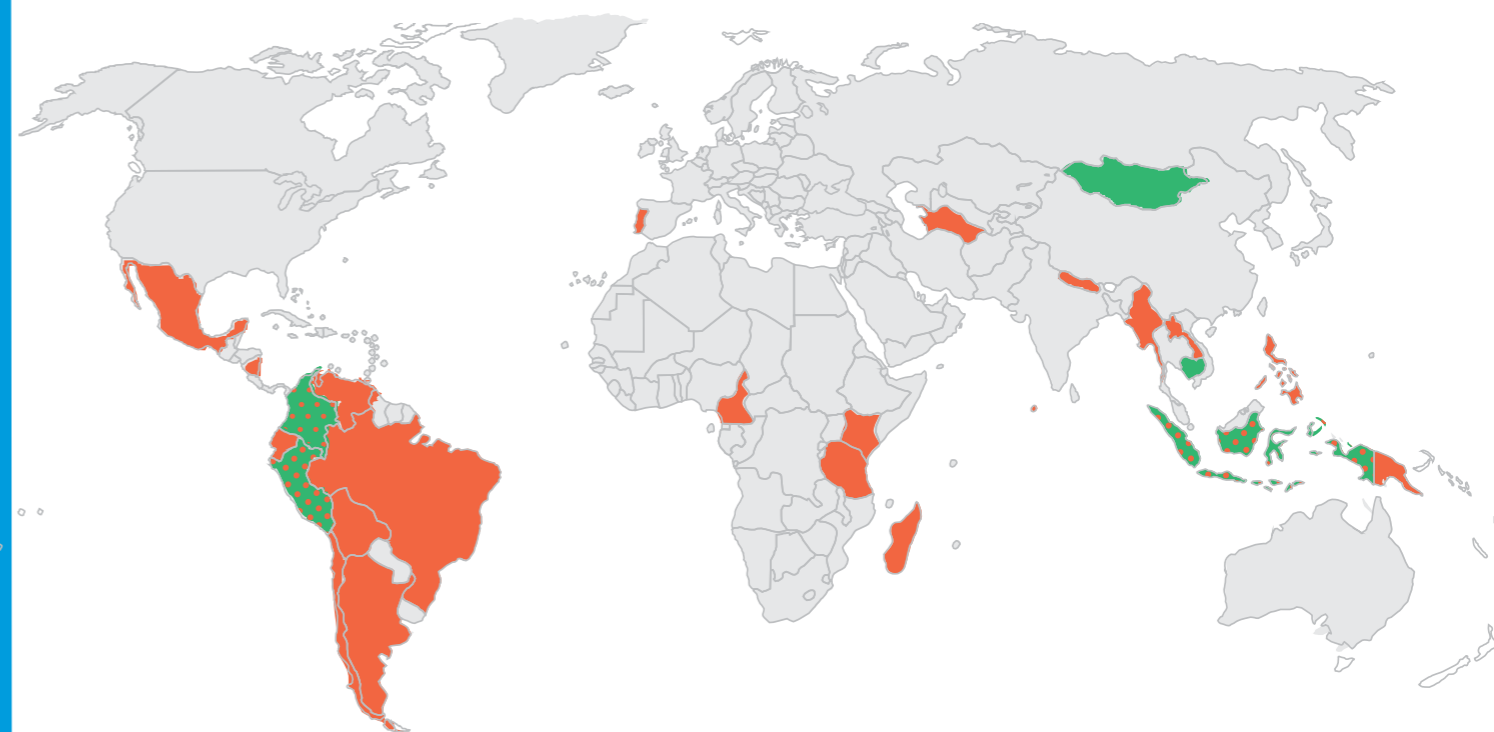
The Netherlands

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 2025



LATIN AMERICA:

Argentina
Bolivia
Brazil
Chile
Colombia
Peru
Nicaragua
Ecuador
Mexico
Venezuela

AFRICA:

Cameroon
Kenya
Madagascar
Tanzania

EUROPE:

Portugal

ASIA:

Cambodia
Laos
Indonesia
Nepal
Mongolia
Maldives
Myanmar
Papua New Guinea
Philippines
Turkmenistan

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

COLOPHON

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