

Mainstreaming opportunities for operationalizing business contributions to nature



| PREPARED BY: FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

BRIEFING NOTE: GOVERNMENT

What is Nature Positive?

Nature positive is a target and a call to action to tackle loss of biodiversity.

"We need to halt and reverse nature loss measured from a baseline of 2020, through increasing the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations and ecosystems so that by 2030 nature is visibly and measurably on the path of recovery." naturepositive.org

Getting to nature positive requires urgent and sustained action across all sectors.

Nature must be woven into all aspects of society and business.

Nature positive represents a transition from a site-specific approach to a target-based perspective.

It is about nature-centric decision-making and holistic integrated management approaches.

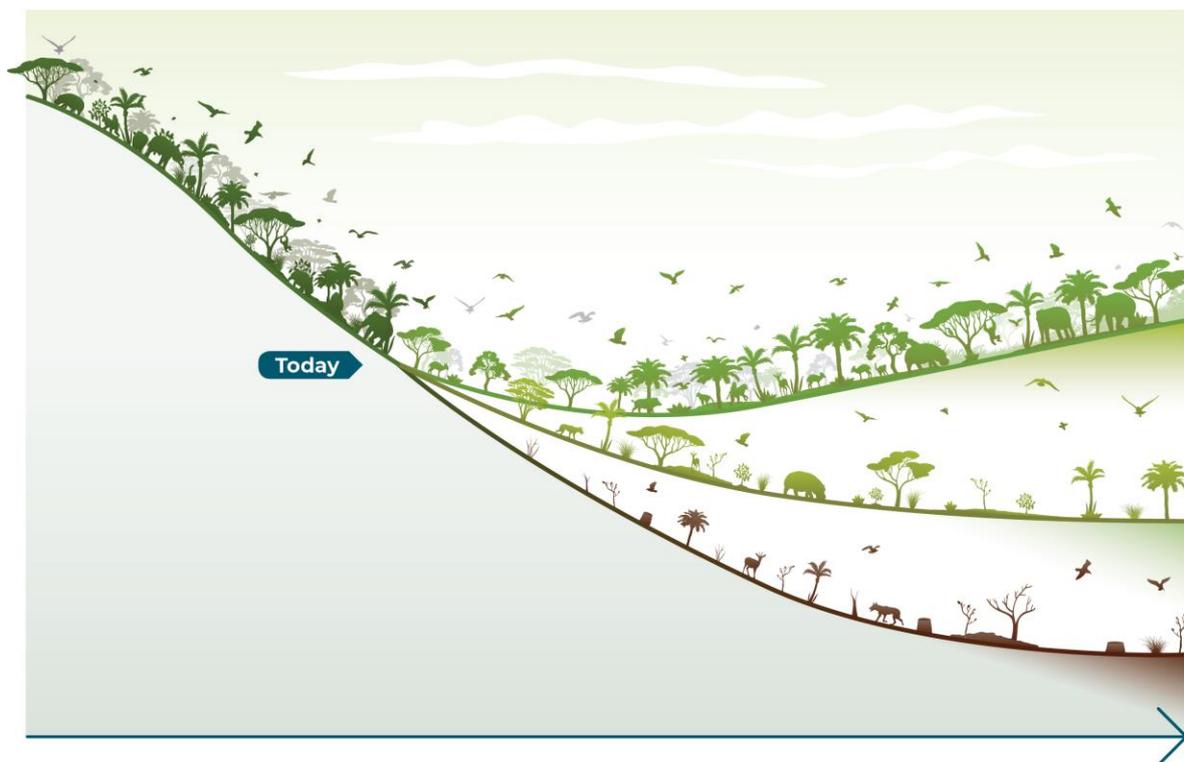
Government to set the targets and mainstream into policy and legislation to provide clear, enforceable, and measurable objectives to create the enabling

conditions and direction to guide action on the ground towards a nature positive goal.

This will require setting of national targets and Economic actors with a crucial role to play in shifting their business models "from nature-negative to nature-positive" and in identifying and disclosing their dependencies on nature, and a new economic model and investment in nature has been called for to bridge the financing gap*.

Inclusive stakeholder engagement and collaboration with civil society and non-governmental organisations will be critical to achieving nature positive and ensuring the delivery of co-benefits.

*Executive Secretary Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, speaking at the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, Marseille, September 2021; Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, speaking at the IUCN's World Conservation Congress 2020, Marseille, September 2021.



A NEW BUSINESS AS USUAL

Bending the curve to halt biodiversity loss and support the recovery of biodiversity requires a new business as usual.

All actors have a role to play.

Government

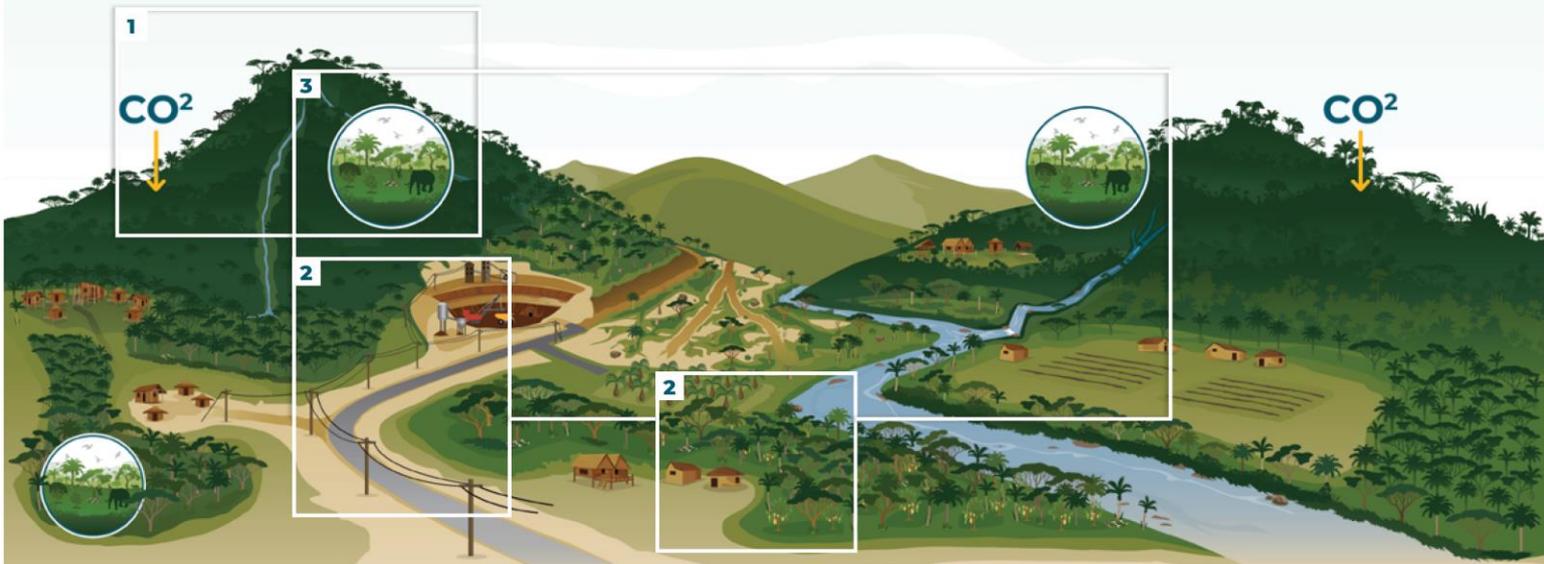
- Set goals and targets and establish the enabling environment for nature positive
- Proactive assessment and management of risks and opportunities using Strategic Environmental Assessment, Cumulative Impact Assessments, and integrated land use planning.
- Landscape conservation planning (see overleaf)
- Decision-making on development projects takes the landscape into account, upholding limits to impacts that can be sustained by nature
- Ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement
- Regulation of business activities – formal accountability for outcomes through legal enforcement
- Establish the legal basis for and contribute to the enabling conditions for public – private - community collaboration and partnerships
- Catalyse, lead, facilitate, partner and/or actively participate in cross-sectoral and collaborative processes towards nature positive
- Identify and engage landscape actors to prevent, manage and monitor cumulative impacts on nature and people

Business

- Integrate nature in decision-making at all levels
- Understand impacts and dependencies on nature in landscapes and value chains
- Apply the mitigation hierarchy, prioritising avoidance of impacts before they occur
- Deliver no net loss or net gain of biodiversity
- Coordinate and collaborate with other stakeholders to improve mitigation outcomes and benefits
- Contribute towards a shared understanding of the landscape and make data freely available and accessible
- Prioritise nature based solutions
- Mobilising finance and funding for landscapes

Civil society

- Support identification and delivery of strategic conservation priorities
- Catalyse and facilitate collaborative processes
- Ensure inclusive stakeholder engagement
- Broker partnerships among landscape actors
- Generate and analyse data and build the evidence base for nature positive approaches
- Technical support to government, community, and business
- Capacity building on nature positive
- Design and delivery of projects on the ground
- Hold economic actors and decision makers to account to prevent, mitigate, manage impacts
- Monitor activities and outcomes on the ground



All land users contribute to landscape objectives through individual, collective and collaborative actions to:

1. AVOID and SECURE priority areas to maintain biodiversity and ecosystem services



Mining invests in the protection of high biodiversity values through an offset. **Ecotourism** supports biodiversity conservation through active presence and value generation. **Communities** play critical role in forest management and protection. Common use of **infrastructure** and utility servitudes by all sectors and communities to avoid habitat loss.

2. MITIGATE and MANAGE induced and cumulative effects across the landscape



E.g. rationalisation of linear infrastructure.

3. RESTORE degraded ecosystems and **AVOID and MINIMISE** future impacts



E.g. all land users contribute to ecosystem restoration to improve connectivity and resilience; riverine habitats restored to improve water quality and regulate flow with collective management.

NATURE POSITIVE NEEDS INDIVIDUAL, COLLECTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE ACTION

No single sector, project or activity acts in isolation.

Development projects take place in complex landscapes, alongside other development projects and activities, and inter-related challenges such as poverty, disease, conflict, climate change and ecosystem degradation.

Decisions and actions at all scales have an effect. Together the many past, present and future decisions and actions accumulate and interact.

Achieving nature positive requires urgent and sustained action across all sectors.

It calls for more integrated, coordinated and cross-sectoral approach at the landscape level.

Delivering positive outcomes for nature requires tangible **action** on the ground. In landscapes and jurisdictions this requires holistic approaches that:

- consider the landscape as an integrated whole
- identify priority areas for conservation and restoration – what needs to be maintained in the landscape for nature to persist and thrive and where are the opportunities to bend the curve and support recovery of nature?

- develop a clear and measured understanding of the threats and pressures on nature
- define limits to development and mitigation in the landscape taking into account the capacity of the landscape
- take proactive measures to **avoid** and **minimise** adverse impacts on nature and people, **mitigate and manage** cumulative effects, and support the recovery of nature and the services it provides through ecosystem **restoration** to improve the extent, quality and connectivity of ecosystems

Multi-stakeholder processes, supported by spatial planning, can help build a shared vision for the landscape, define desired outcomes and science-based targets for maintaining the amount, integrity and persistence of important biodiversity and ecosystem services at a wider scale.

Landscape conservation planning can help to inform the rules of development: where to go, where not to go; which impacts can and cannot be tolerated; where there may be trade-offs that need to be understood; and where mitigation can and cannot support nature positive outcomes.



“Avoiding and mitigating the impacts of development and making a positive contribution through collective and collaborative action” (View short film: English).

MOBILISING INVESTMENT FOR NATURE POSITIVE

Evidence shows that with urgent, concerted and collaborative efforts for transformative change across economic, social, political and technological factors, there is still time to halt biodiversity loss and reverse the trend of nature’s decline while meeting other global societal goals simultaneously (WWF 2020*). This requires rapid and improved use of existing tools, innovative new initiatives for individual and collective action, and the mobilisation of finance and funding for delivering nature positive.

Financial flows to conserve nature are currently hugely outbalanced by financing targeted to activities that are directly harmful to biodiversity. Government, business, civil society and donors – individually and together – play a key role in leveraging and providing finance and other in-kind resources (such as human or physical resources) to enable landscape level delivery of nature positive.

There are a wide range of existing, innovative and emerging finance, funding and delivery options (World Bank 2021) and growing calls to move away from ad-hoc project-by-project investments towards a more integrated landscape finance system. Well-designed landscape finance offers the opportunity to provide real economic alternatives to unsustainable use of the natural world and can allow stakeholders in at-risk landscapes to access the financial resources needed to achieve realistic, long-term landscape-level conservation (Shames & Scherr 2020) .

Establishing the enabling frameworks, partnership models, and investment vehicles for private-sector to contribute towards national and landscape priorities (e.g., through national biodiversity offset scheme, jurisdictional REDD+, conservation trust funds etc.) can further help to drive collective investment in conservation outcomes.

For more information and links to relevant resources see:

- Fauna & Flora International (2022) Guidance to support individual, collective and collaboration actions to deliver positive outcomes for nature – Liberia. Report.
- Fauna & Flora International. 2021. Coordinated and collaborative application of the mitigation hierarchy in complex multi-use landscapes in Africa. A conceptual framework integrating socioecological considerations. Available: <https://www.fauna-flora.org/approaches/biodiversity-business/collaboration-between-sectors/>
- Goll (2022) Laws and policies for mainstreaming biodiversity in Liberia. Gap Analysis. Project Report submitted as part of the MOON project (Mainstreaming Opportunities for Operationalizing business contributions to Nature in the Mano River Union countries).
- Shames, S. & Scherr, S.J. (2020) Mobilizing finance across sectors and projects to achieve sustainable landscapes: Emerging models. EcoAgriculture Partners: Washington DC.
- World Bank (2021) Forest-Smart Mining: Guidance to Applying Nature-Based Solutions in the Mining Sector. World Bank Group.

* WWF (2020) Living Planet Report 2020 - Bending the curve of biodiversity loss. World Wildlife Fund (WWF): Gland, Switzerland.