

Mainstreaming opportunities for operationalizing business contributions to nature



| PREPARED BY: FAUNA & FLORA INTERNATIONAL (FFI)

BRIEFING NOTE: NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

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.

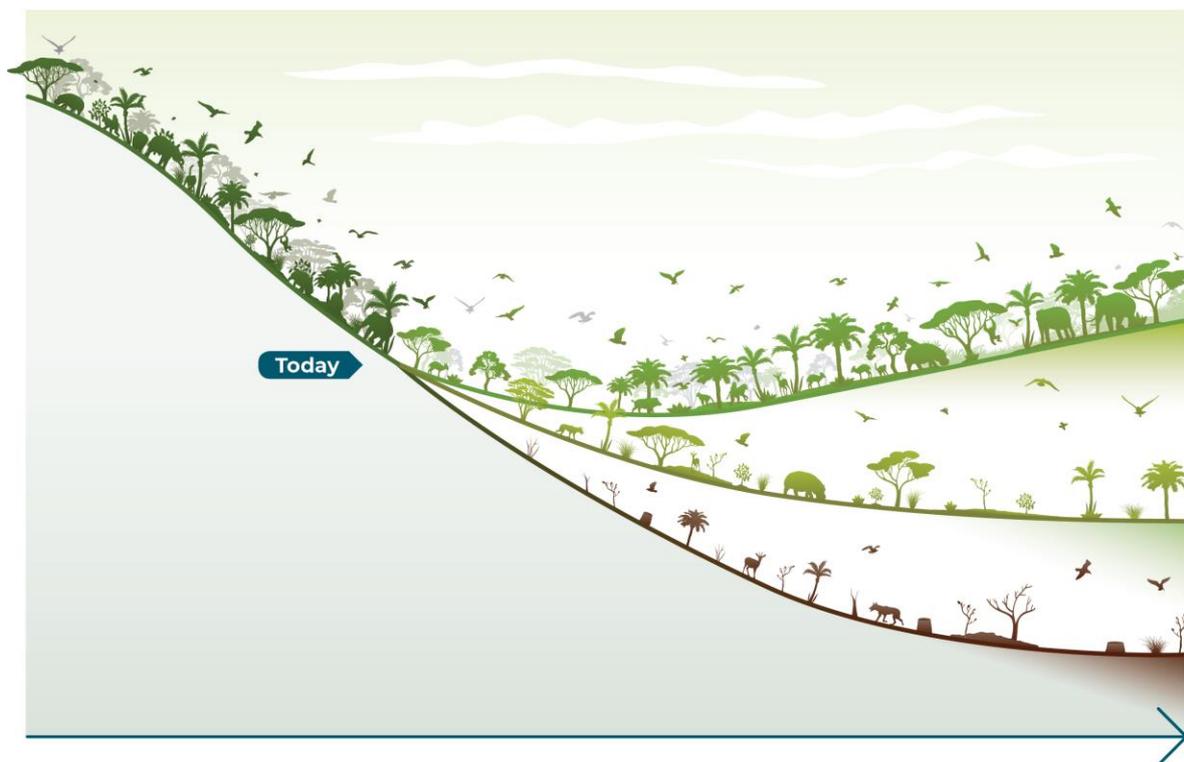
Government needs to set the targets and mainstream these into policy and legislation to provide clear, enforceable, and measurable objectives to create the enabling

ground towards a nature positive goal.

Economic actors have 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*.

Civil society and non-governmental organisations are calling for a new business as usual, one that would achieve a nature positive world by 2030. Non-governmental organisations and other civil society groups will have critical roles to play in delivering nature positive outcomes.

*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

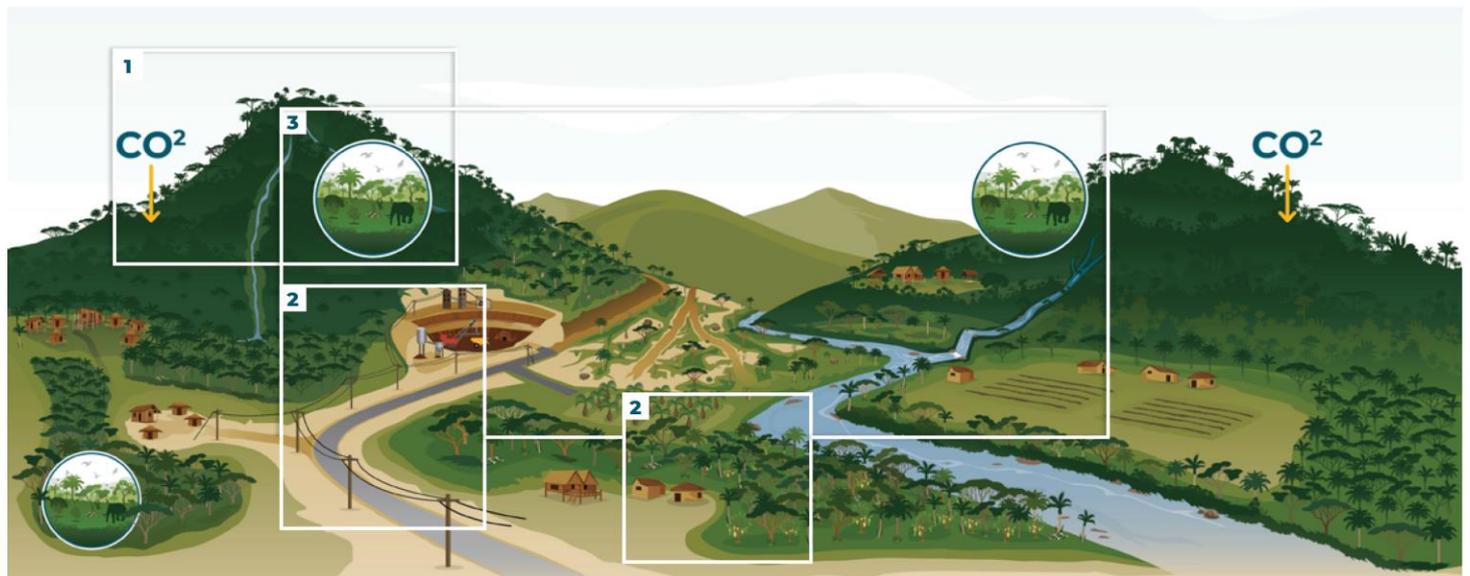
- Set goals and targets and establish the enabling environment for nature positive
- Proactive assessment and management of risks and opportunities using Strategic Environmental Assessment, Cumulative Impact Assessments, and integrated land use planning.
- Landscape conservation planning (see overleaf)
- 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.

NGOs have a key role to play in building the evidence base, ensuring inclusive stakeholder engagement processes, understanding implications of threats, informing limits and identifying and realising opportunities for conservation.



"Avoiding and mitigating the impacts of development and making a positive contribution through collective and collaborative action" (View short film: [English](#)).

OPPORTUNITIES FOR NGOS IN LIBERIA TO SUPPORT NATURE POSITIVE

There exist different roles for different types of NGOs to advance a nature positive agenda in Liberia. This may include working on advocacy and awareness, providing technical support to government, local communities and/or business to build their capacity to deliver nature positive. Others may specialise in interventions to drive sustainable community development, protected areas management, sourcing funding, brokering relationships, facilitating collaborative processes.

It is important for any NGO to recognise their own strengths and weaknesses and identify opportunities to collaborate with others to maximise their collective influence, guided by coherent and consistent messaging aimed to promote the adoption of nature positive commitments and delivery of tangible outcomes on the ground.

It will be necessary to build the evidence base to clearly demonstrate practical application of nature positive approaches in Liberia and the delivery of benefits for the relevant stakeholders. NGOs are ideally positioned to contribute to developing the evidence base, gathering both quantitative and qualitative data in Liberia and contributing towards the evidence that is being compiled globally.

Another area where NGOs can support the advancement of nature positive is through strategic communication. Landscape actors need to understand the potential benefits associated

with the adoption of nature positive and the practical ways in which to achieve this. Communication and capacity building needs to be integrated into the design and implementation of projects that seek to advance nature positive outcomes.

In the Southeast of Liberia, with the existence of a network of protected areas (Sapo National Park, Grebo-Krahn National Park) and proposed protected areas (Cestos Senkwhen, Grand Kru – River Gee, Krahn-Bassa), and the operation of private companies working on resource extraction (logging, mining, agriculture), there exist opportunities for NGOs to catalyse, facilitate and support landscape-level nature positive initiatives.

NGOs need to be supported in building their capacity on nature positive in order to fulfil these roles and maximise their effectiveness in driving positive change in priority landscapes across Liberia.

