

Intervention delivered by Marco Lambertini, Director General, WWF International (World Wide Fund for Nature)



22 MAY 2020
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY
Our solutions are in nature

Dear Excellences, colleagues and friends concerned for the future of the Planet and our society, we are living in extraordinary times and not just for the tragic COVID19 crisis. This is in fact the symptom of a much more serious situation we are facing.

On one hand all indicators of the health of the planet, our home, are still heading in the wrong direction. Scientists warn us of approaching tipping points for climate, forests, oceans, biodiversity. There is no room for complacency.

On the other hand science has never been clearer and awareness has never been greater on the issues, the urgency, and particularly the consequences of the accelerating unsustainable exploitation of natural resources and destruction of nature. Concerns have never been deeper across all sectors of society.

All these elements are creating the perfect condition for change.

The narrative on nature conservation is already evolving. We realise that we must conserve nature

- because of our moral responsibility to coexist with Earth's amazing and inspiring diversity of life
- to preserve the crucial services and goods that nature provide us and our health, prosperity and happiness depend on.

We now need an ambitious global plan to rebalance our relationship with the Planet, a "NEW DEAL FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE" and the world has the opportunity to embrace it next year.

A plan with some key elements:

- 1) A global APEX GOAL FOR NATURE, the north star or southern cross to reset our global compass on our relationship with nature. A "NATURE POSITIVE" goal that, together with the "carbon neutral" goals for climate, commits the world to stop losing nature and start its recovery by 2030 against a minimum baseline of 2020.
- 2) A set of clear and measurable specific goals:
 - a. Secure the world's remaining NATURAL SPACES, by protecting 30% of land and ocean, and sustainably managing the additional 20%, with emphasis on community and indigenous led conservation and sustainable management.
 - b. Halt today's wave of MASS EXTINCTION and sharp decline of wildlife by curbing unsustainable fishing, hunting and wildlife trade, the latter at the basis of the current pandemic crisis.

- c. Reduce HUMAN FOOTPRINT on nature by greening the main economic drivers of today's nature loss, the big five sectors: agriculture, fishing, infrastructure, extractives and forestry. Of course, alongside a shift to clean energy. We know what it takes to reduce the environmental impact of these industries, and that this transformation brings huge opportunities for jobs and economic growth.

We know today, that all this is necessary and urgent. And we know that it is possible and right.

Next year, we can, must and will deliver a New Deal for Nature and People towards a One Planet, One Society, One Health vision. It is simply our responsibility and our greatest contribution to a safe future for the world's children, our children, and all life on Earth.

