WWF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SDG SUMMIT & ITS POLITICAL DECLARATION

Co-facilitated by Ireland and Qatar

SUMMARY

WWF RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SDG SUMMIT & ITS POLITICAL DECLARATION

Heads of State and Government of all Member States to the UN should adopt the SDG Political Declaration, with the following key elements:

- Welcome and recognise the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the agreement on conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction as the new roadmaps for the biodiversity-related and biodiversity-dependent SDGs
- Recommend that the UN and Member States maximize synergies and alignment between monitoring frameworks for the strategic plans and frameworks of the Rio Conventions
- Commit to stimulate the necessary investment for SDGs
- Commit to re-evaluate what counts as national development beyond traditional GDP measurement
- Commit to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and environment and its multiple values into policies, laws and processes and scaling up the application of equitable and rights-based nature-based solutions
- Commit to redouble efforts to address the root causes of societal and environmental challenges in an equitable manner by significantly reducing the global footprint of production and consumption
- Commit to ensure the right processes are in place and functioning effectively for a true whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to SDG implementation
- Commit to accelerate the transition and implementation of sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems, scale up reduction of food loss and waste and promote healthy nutrition and diets for all
- Commit to implement SDG 12 on responsible consumption and production
- Commit to support implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality Targets and strengthen restoration efforts by increasing financial support
- Commit to urgent action to implement SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy for all) and 13 (urgent climate action) to achieve the Paris Agreement
- Commit to adopt a rights-based approach to achieving the SDGs, including implementing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment recently adopted by the UN General Assembly
- Recommit to the urgent agreement of a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution
- Commit to continue monitoring progress and take necessary actions to ensure accountability and effective delivery of SDGs and all related multilateral environmental agreements
- Commit to seek for alignment of SDGs with the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD) and strengthen joint implementation approaches
- Commit to stopping the tipping point for fragile ecosystems of critical importance to the world, such as the Amazon, the Borneo and the Congo Basin.

The 2023 SDG Summit will be convened in September 2023, during the United Nations General Assembly high-level week. Heads of State and Government will gather at the United Nations Headquarters in New York to follow-up and review the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They will provide high-level political guidance on transformative and accelerated actions leading up to the target year of 2030 for achieving the SDGs.
The 2023 SDG Summit marks the mid-point of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Nature underpins our societies, economies, our livelihoods and health and wellbeing. Biodiversity and healthy ecosystems are fundamental for economic activities related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, energy, tourism, transport and trade (SDG 8). Biodiversity is also essential to ending poverty (SDG1), through providing resources and income, particularly for rural poor people. It is a key element of food security and a means of improving nutrition (SDG 2) and a substantial proportion of the world’s population depends on traditional medicines derived from nature for their health care needs (SDG3). The 2019 Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) Global Assessment of the State of Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services found that continued negative trends in biodiversity and ecosystems will undermine progress towards SDGs related to poverty (SDG 1), hunger (SDG 2), health (SDG 3), water (SDG 6), cities (SDG 11), climate (SDG 13), oceans (SDG 14) and land (SDG 15). The global assessment also found that incremental and fragmented change is not sufficient and will not work to reverse the loss of nature and the decline in life support systems we rely upon. The only way forward is to transform how we think, live, produce and consume; to achieve a new equilibrium that balances resilience, security and well-being, and does so in harmony with nature.

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF), adopted in 2022 under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity outlines 4 global goals and 23 action targets to help the world to achieve transformational change to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030. Taking action to achieve the KMGBF goals and targets will accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. One example of analysis of the links between KMGBF targets and SDGs is depicted in the diagram below.

At the SDG Summit in 2023, WWF urges Heads of State and Government of all Member States to the UN to:

- Adopt the SDG Political Declaration, which includes the following elements to support urgently needed accelerated progress on the SDGs, and demonstrate clear progress on all of these in their SDG Summit and High Level meeting on Financing for Development, where relevant, statements:
  - Welcome the adoption of the KMGBF and the global legally binding agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (BBNJ Agreement), commit

WWF Recommendations for Heads of States and Governments – UNGA78  
SDG Summit  
June 2023
- to take the necessary steps to swiftly sign and ratify the BBNJ agreement, striving for a goal of entry into force within 2 years, and recognise these two agreements as two new roadmaps for the biodiversity-related and biodiversity-dependent SDGs,
- Recommend that the UN and Member States maximize synergies and alignment between monitoring frameworks for the KMGBF, Paris Agreement, UNCCD 2018-2030 Strategic Framework, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and ensure those frameworks are sufficiently holistic.
- Commit to stimulate the necessary investment for SDGs by:
  - Increasing finance and fast tracking innovative rights-based and equitable finance mechanism and partnerships for SDG implementation, including with the private sector,
  - Identifying and eliminating, phasing out or reforming subsidies and incentives that are harmful to the environment, aligning both private and public finance with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the KMGBF, and increasing biodiversity related domestic and international financial resources as agreed in the KMGBF.
- Commit to re-evaluate what counts as national development beyond traditional GDP measurement,
- Commit to ensure the full integration of biodiversity and environment and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning, budgeting and development processes and scaling up the application of equitable and rights-based nature-based solutions to address societal challenges while benefiting biodiversity,
- Commit to redouble efforts to address the root causes of societal and environmental challenges in an equitable manner by significantly reducing the global footprint of production and consumption, including through
  - Just, nature positive and carbon neutral transformations of food and agricultural systems, forestry, fisheries, infrastructure, financing and other key economic sectors,
  - Addressing land- and sea-use change notably by ensuring all areas are under biodiversity inclusive spatial planning that maintains ecological connectivity, and by immediately implementing deforestation free and conversion free trade and supply chains, with the aim to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance close to zero by 2030,
- Commit to ensure the right processes are in place and functioning effectively for a true whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to SDG planning and implementation at national level,
- Commit to take actions at all levels to accelerate the transition to sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems that promote the alignment of human and planetary health –i.e., systems that promote nature-positive and climate-neutral production, that reduce food loss and waste and that accelerate efforts to end hunger and all forms of malnutrition while respecting planetary boundaries.
- Commit to support implementation of Land Degradation Neutrality Targets of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), to combat desertification, and land degradation and drought
- Commit to urgent action to implement SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy for all) and 13 (urgent climate action), fundamental for achieving all Paris Agreement goals and keeping the world on a pathway to 1.5°C degrees global warming.
- Commit to adopt a rights-based approach to achieving the SDGs, including implementing the recently adopted right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment by the UN General Assembly,
○ Commit to seek for alignment of SDGs with the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCBD and UNCCD) and strengthen joint implementation approaches. Food systems are responsible for 70% of biodiversity loss and around a third of GHG emissions, but notably absent from many countries’ national commitments. Furthermore, food systems transformation actions will deliver benefits across the Conventions. Aligning the commitments and strengthening joint implementation approaches will accelerate transformation.

○ Recommitt to the urgent agreement of a legally binding global instrument to end plastic pollution and ensure a plastic free planet for all (UNEP/EA.5/Res.14).

○ Commit to continue monitoring progress and take necessary actions to ensure accountability and effective delivery of SDGs and all related MEAs.

○ Urgently adopt needed reforms to ensure a global financial architecture that is carbon neutral, nature-positive and equitable and measure progress beyond GDP to achieve the wellbeing of all people and safeguard the planet, keeping in mind the opportunity of the Summit of the Futures (2024) and its pact for our future.

○ Commit to stopping the tipping point for fragile ecosystems of critical importance to the world, such as the Amazon, the Borneo and the Congo Basin.