FUNDING NATURE,
SLOWING CLIMATE CHANGE,
SECURING OUR FUTURE.

Getting nature back on track, reducing greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions and keeping the world to 1.5 degrees Celsius or under is going to require mobilizing significant public, private, domestic, and international funds. Nature has the ability to reduce 1/3 of the needed GhG emissions to stay below 2 degrees. It also has the ability to make our lands more resilient.

We’ll only succeed in building an equitable, nature-positive and net-zero future if we increase funding for nature, recognizing that tackling climate change and halting biodiversity loss cannot be solved in isolation.

In the lead up to the 2021 UN Biodiversity and UN Climate meetings, TNC has specific recommendations to help fill the biodiversity funding gap (i.e. how much we’re currently spending—and how much more is needed to save biodiversity) and how to assist countries as they adapt to and buffer the worst effects of climate change.

- Overall, we need more funds for Nature.
- We need countries to spend more domestically to reduce their emissions, build resilience, and protect biodiversity.
- Overall, we must significantly increase funding to address the biodiversity funding gap while increasing climate and nature finance.
- We can in part do this by doubling foreign aid flows by the middle of this decade and allocate up to 30% of climate aid for nature-based solutions for both mitigation and adaption.
- We must increase the UNFCCC’s collective goal of US$100 billion per year for climate change. This goal was made in 2009 and as science keeps telling us that climate change is getting worse, we must spend more to make our energy systems and transport cleaner and more efficient, and to protect nature.
- Countries will also be expected to update their so-called National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) as part of this year’s UN Biodiversity negotiations. Updating and implementing national plans with new commitments will require additional financial resources, as well as commitment to reduce activities that are harmful to biodiversity, ecosystems, and people.
Closing the 700 billion USD annual ‘biodiversity finance gap’ will need a combination of elimination or redirection of harmful subsidies and increasing finance for biodiversity.

This year’s UN CBD COP15 should require countries to develop National Biodiversity Finance Plans that close their own national financial resource gaps, align all public and private financial flows and to assist implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework beyond their borders when they can.

National budgets need to include specific allocation for Indigenous and local communities that contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

Parties should undertake national reviews of harmful and harmful perverse incentives in alignment or integrated into their National Biodiversity Finance Plans as part of a comprehensive national and international program to make agriculture both climate resilient and nature-positive by 2030.

In addition, we recommend asking that public and private sector actors consider both climate and biodiversity together when making decisions related to nature, i.e. that US funds for Sustainable Landscapes include biodiversity considerations. This is essential as part of a systemic transformation to a net-zero, nature-positive and equitable economy as well as valuing and embedding nature and climate in decision-making and disclosure beyond short-term profit and GDP.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stark reminder of our economic system’s fragility and the interrelationship between our planet, health and economy. We ask that governments and the private sector embed ambitious climate and nature action for a sustainable economic recovery.

We’ve broken down a few specific mechanisms below to show how we can mobilize funds: Carbon Markets, Biodiversity Compensation and Repurposing Agricultural Support i.e., Subsidy Reform. **Click below to view the full graphics.**