



COSTA RICA  
GOBIERNO DEL BICENTENARIO  
2018 - 2022



Permanent Mission of Costa Rica  
to the United Nations



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Resilient nations.



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## People and Nature - solutions to accelerating progress towards the 2030 Agenda and averting planetary catastrophe!

**Date and Time:** July 17<sup>th</sup> 2019, 8.00 - 9.30 am

**Venue:** Banquet hall (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) Scandinavia House, 58 Park Ave, New York, NY 10016

**Host/Sponsor:** Costa Rica and the Delegation of the European Union

**Partners:** YOUNGO (International Youth Climate Movement), UNEP, Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), UNDP

### Background

Nature is the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the ecosystems that enable our economies to grow. It is - the bedrock that underpins all life on Earth.

Extreme weather, climate policy failure, and natural disasters are the top three global risks for the business identified by the World Economic Forum, 2019. Water shortages, accelerating biodiversity loss and large-scale displacement of people and related conflict also rank in the top 10. The story is simple. Functioning natural ecosystems protect us when something catastrophic happens. Without the diversity of plants and animals that make up these systems, nature can't support us. We have already lost over 60% of the populations of wildlife since 1970s due to human activity affecting the ecosystems we depend on - this is a crisis<sup>1</sup>. The recent publication of the IPBES Global Assessment<sup>2</sup> confirms alarming decline in nature, with up to one million species currently face the threat of extinction, and its vital contributions to people and underscores the need for transformational change to safeguard life on Earth. ([IPBES Global Assessment 2019](#)). As a result of unsustainable production and consumption patterns, inequality, and increased resource use, the world is not on track to achieve the environmental dimension of the SDGs by 2030 and anthropogenic activity is onsetting the sixth mass extinction.

A New Deal for Nature and People is needed to accelerate progress on SDGs implementation and ensure we are able to achieve the 2030 Agenda, supported by a strong Global Framework on Biological Diversity (to be agreed by the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity in Kunming, October 2020) and enhanced and effectively implemented Climate NDCs. We need to make nature, writ large, a top political priority and forge an integrated approach to climate, nature and sustainable development. People from all backgrounds and sectors need to be supported to be change agents in this planetary crisis. The UN Biodiversity Summit in 2020 which will take place before the meeting in China is an opportunity to demonstrate our joint ambition.

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<sup>1</sup> Living Planet Report - [https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge\\_hub/all\\_publications/living\\_planet\\_report\\_2018/](https://wwf.panda.org/knowledge_hub/all_publications/living_planet_report_2018/)

<sup>2</sup> [IPBES Global Assessment 2019](#)



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Nature is an essential foundation for achieving the 2030 Agenda and we need to prioritize nature restoration as vital for our future and preserve the integrity of the 2030 Agenda.

## Objectives

The proposed side event will:

- **Introduce the current state of emergency, with nature loss having a devastating effect on human survival, our well-being and economies:** we have lost 60% of animal populations over the past 40 years due to human activity. But it is not just wildlife that is in crisis. Ignoring this puts the health, well-being, and prosperity of over seven and a half billion people on the planet under threat. The crucial ecosystem services provided by nature, which underpin human well-being and survival, are at immense risk. Each year, around US\$125 trillion worth of ecosystem services are provided to the global economy through drinkable water, food, fresh air, heat absorption, productive soil, and forests & oceans that soak up carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).
- **Showcase how nature can save the 2030 Agenda and humanity** focusing on **concrete and proven nature-based solutions** that can provide multiple benefits for sustainable development.
- **Call for action** building on the current empowered youth movement and call to actions from various governments ([Montreal Nature Champions call to action](#) & G7 [Metz Charter on Biodiversity](#)). We need to preserve the integrity of the agenda, address some of the biggest challenges that so far have impeded effective implementation (financing and integration) and invest in solutions so that everyone benefits from the positive outcomes of restoring nature.

**Outcome:** A call for action on climate, nature and people

## Programme

08.10 am – 08.15 am: **Opening statement** - María Fernanda Espinosa (President of the General Assembly) sets the scene *To be confirmed*

08.15 am – 08.25 am: **A state of emergency with hope** through empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality – *Footage of Our Planet & Opening remarks from Manuel Pulgar-Vidal (Climate & Energy Lead, WWF)*

08.25am – 08.30 am: **A video presentation on youth actions on climate change and nature-based solutions** - *a short (3 minutes) video compilation of youth activities on this track*

08.30-09.20 am: **Showcase how nature can save the 2030 Agenda and humanity** focusing on concrete and proven nature-based solutions that can provide multiple benefits for sustainable development - *Moderated discussion (with youth as co-moderator)*



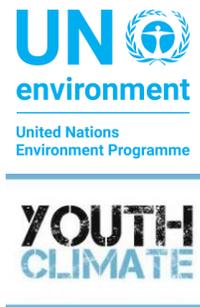
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**Vision and overview on nature-based solutions track in lead up to the SG Climate Summit - Jamil Ahmad, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs, United Nations Environment Programme, New York Office**

### The multiple benefits of nature based solutions

- Costa Rican example - *Ambassador Carazo - Costa Rica*
- Africa-led efforts to accelerate restoration to enhance food security, increase climate change resilience and mitigation and combat rural poverty – *Forest Landscape Restoration in Africa - (SDG 10, 13 and 16) Anita Diederichsen, Global Lead/Coordinator of the Forest Landscape Restoration ACAI, WWF*
- Community-based action as an example - how grassroots activities impact change through farming for biodiversity – *Gábor Figeczky, Head of Global Policy, IFOAM - Organics International*
- A new deal for Nature and People and for the Economy - *Astrid Schomaker, Director, DG Environment, European Commission*
- Financing nature-based solutions - from development assistance to the private sector (means of implementation SDG17, cross-cutting with Addis Ababa Action Agenda for FfD SDG 10) - *Adriana Dinu, Deputy Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, United Nations Development Programme*

### Questions to the panelists

09.20 am – 09.25 am: **Call to action from empowered youth**, and presentation of the work from youth – *Youth advocate from the global south talks to climate and nature crisis (identified by YOUNGO) (SDG 17)*

09.25 am – 09.30 am: **Closing**

- From the Climate Summit to the Biodiversity Summit - *Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba (Special Envoy for SG Climate Summit)*