

Nature positive agriculture in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

- ***Sustainably managed agricultural lands can make a major contribution to conserving 30% of the planet's land area by 2030 (Target 3: "30 x 30")***
- ***Nature-based solutions exist and can be upscaled to respond to local sustainability and societal challenges (Target 10 on sustainable management).***
- ***We need to define indicators to monitor progress in land management, accessible and useful for agriculture and food systems actors (Target 10).***
- ***Farmers, food system and conservation actors need to engage in a dialogue to agree on objectives and on how to share the burden and the benefits of sustainable practices (Targets 16 on sustainable consumption).***
- ***Public and private incentives are necessary for the transition and should be repurposed when "necessary" (Target 18 on subsidies and Target 19 on financial resources)***

Nature-based solutions for food systems transformation

[IPBES](#) global assessment report (2019) and the [IPCC](#) special report on climate change and land (2019) have highlighted agriculture as one of the most important drivers of biodiversity loss, climate change and land degradation. On the other hand, agriculture is highly dependent on nature for climate regulation, soil fertility, clean water, pollination, pest control, and many other services. Maintaining these services and tackling the pervasive problem of food loss and waste, which accounts for one third of all food produced (FAO, 2019) will be critical to feed a future population of 10 billion people in 2050 and to ensure adequate nutrition for the 780 million people that are currently food insecure.

Upscaling Nature-based Solutions (NBS) in agriculture can contribute to the transition towards food systems that maintain our natural capital while contributing to healthy soils and thriving production landscapes. This brief is highlighting the potential for significant convergence between the conservation, agriculture and the food sectors during the upcoming international negotiations for a post-

2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Agriculture is part of the solution to conserve 30% of the planet's land area by 2030 (T3: "30 x 30")

Thirty eight percent of all land is currently used by agriculture globally (FAO-STAT 2020). Therefore, achieving the [30x30 target](#) will require greater inclusion of sustainably managed agricultural land as Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) or Protected and conserved areas (PCA), as already the case in some regions.

Globally agreed criteria and methodologies will be needed to guarantee that agriculture land included in the 30% effectively deliver high standards of conservation and benefit to people.

Progress towards sustainable management of agriculture land (T10) is possible and must be monitored

Aiming for agroecological and regenerative approaches will be necessary to increase the ambition of what we mean by sustainable agriculture, in order to reduce agriculture footprint and increase the benefits for people and Societies.

We need to define indicators that are accessible and useful for agriculture and food systems actors. Parties should commit to follow the share of land under nature positive management and monitor the health of their agriculture land (land cover, land productivity, chemical use, carbon stocks, soil biodiversity...).

Incentives are needed to encourage farmers and food system actors to contribute to achieving the post-2020 biodiversity targets

National cross-sectoral dialogues, with farmers at the centre, will be critical to build mutual understanding and trust and define national roadmaps with specific targets, policies and



For further information, download the IUCN 2020 report [Common Ground: restoring land health for sustainable agriculture](#) (IUCN, 2020)

monitoring systems. This must include a debate on the most relevant public and private incentives.

IUCN's Tools

IUCN is developing a Land Health tool to monitor the health of agricultural landscapes. This builds on indicators defined at soil, farm, landscape and national levels.

IUCN is also developing an NBS-Agri Tool, inspired by the IUCN global standard for Nature-based Solutions, which will guide agriculture actors in designing projects and investments that contribute to upscaling NBS.

The Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology (ROAM) is used to assess forest landscape restoration opportunities at the national or sub-national level

The Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric measures the contribution that investments can make to reducing species' extinction risk.

Additional Information

IUCN Common ground report
[Common ground | IUCN Library System](#)

Sustainable Agriculture and Land Health Initiative: <https://www.iucn.org/about/senior-management/director-general/iucn-strategic-initiatives/sustainable-agriculture-and-land-health-initiative>

IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions: <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.CH.2020.08.en>

Species Threat Abatement and Restoration (STAR) metric
[Species Threat Abatement and Recovery \(STAR\) metric - resource | IUCN](#)

[Approaches to sustainable agriculture | IUCN Library System](#)