

Key Messages

At HLPF 2026 IUCN is focusing on three of the SDGs under review: SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), ahead of the three 2026 Rio COPs and the UN Water Conference. Our key messages can be found in the [policy brief](#).

- **Synergies:** Strengthen concrete operational linkages across the Rio Conventions and with the 2030 Agenda, other conventions and institutions, ahead of the three 2026 Rio COPs.
- **Nature-positive energy transition (SDG7):** HLPF should chart a just, nature-positive energy transition delivering measurable net gains for biodiversity, shaped through meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.
- **Water governance (SDG6):** The SDG6 review is a key stepping stone to the UN Water Conference — HLPF should send a strong political signal of commitment to an intergovernmental process to close the global water governance gap.
- **Biodiversity in urban planning (SDG11):** HLPF should empower cities to integrate biodiversity into urban planning, strengthen local decision-making, reconnect people with nature, and drive ecologically informed, accountable development.

IUCN Engagement Calendar: Statements, Interventions & Side Events

TUESDAY 7 JULY

10:00 – 13:00 SDG6 Thematic Review – statement from the floor, UNHQ
15:00 – 18:00 “SDG6 Moment” (organized by UN-Water) –Panel intervention, UNHQ

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY

08:00 – 09:30 Groundwater Breakfast Event *Organized by EDF, IUCN and IWMI, EDF offices*

THURSDAY 9 JULY — SDG11 THEMATIC REVIEW

15:00 – 18:00 SDG11 Thematic Review – statement from the floor, UNHQ

FRIDAY 10 JULY

08:30 – 13:30 Water Security, Sanitation and Ecosystem Health event *Organized by IUCN, WCS, UNICEF and the Ocean Sewage Alliance, Central Park Zoo*
14:00 – 16:00 Source to Sea: Where Water Meets Life event organized by Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi and IUCN

MONDAY 13 JULY

13:15 – 14:30 Strengthening Global Water Governance: establishing an International Water Organization under the auspices of the UN - High-level side event organized by Kazakhstan, UNHQ
15:00 – 17:00 Turning the Tide for SDG6 and beyond, event organized by Egypt

TUESDAY 14 JULY

Time TBC General Debate – Official IUCN statement, UNHQ

