



EU Green Deal and Biodiversity

How to put nature on path to recovery

Tommaso Demozzi
IUCN European Regional Office



The International Union for Conservation of Nature

- Founded in 1948 and is now the world's largest and most diverse environmental network in the world.
- IUCN played a fundamental role in the creation and implementation of **key international environmental conventions**.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



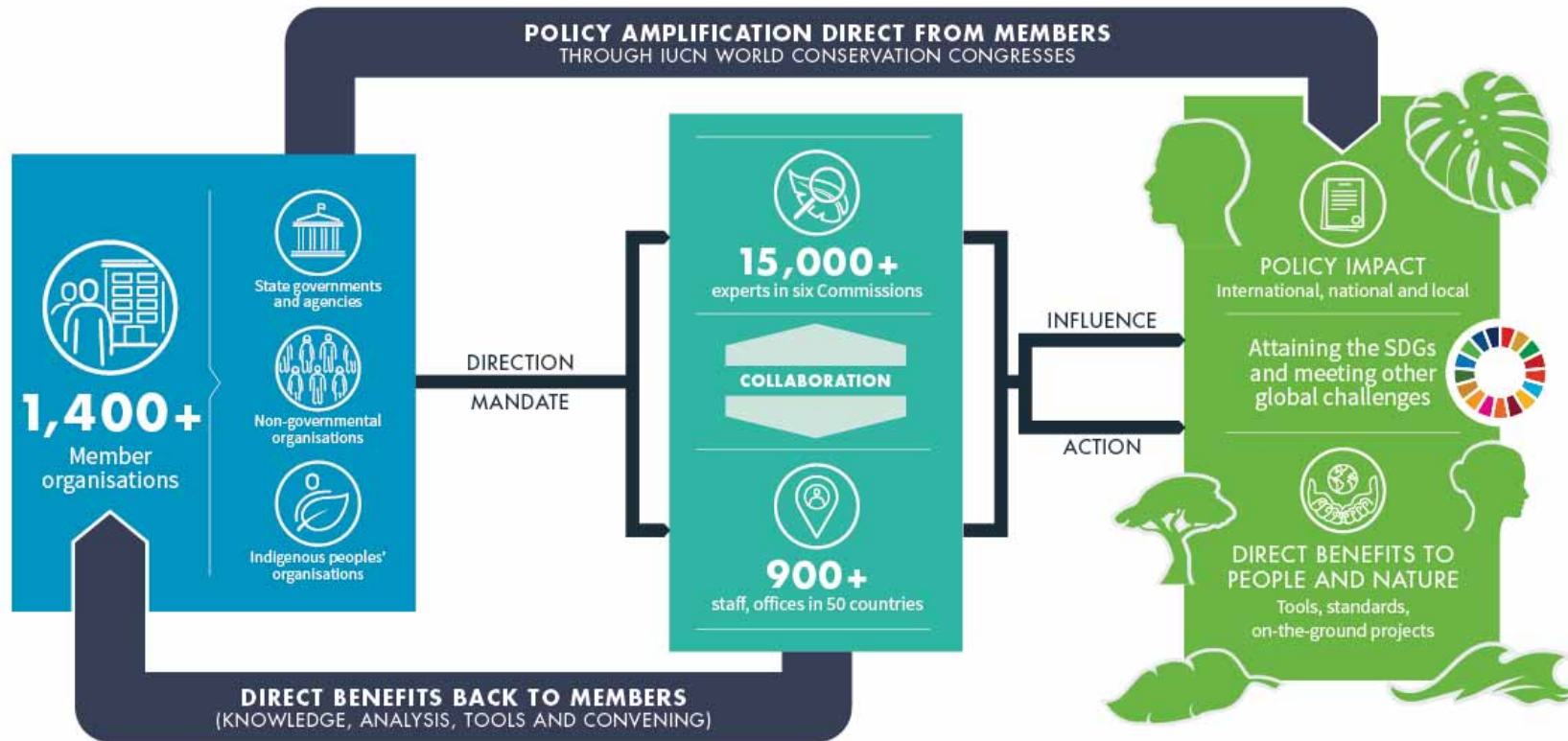
Ramsar
CONVENTION ON WETLANDS
CONVENTION SUR LES ZONES HUMIDES
CONVENCIÓN SOBRE LOS HUMEDALES
(Ramsar, Iran, 1971)



United Nations
Convention to Combat
Desertification

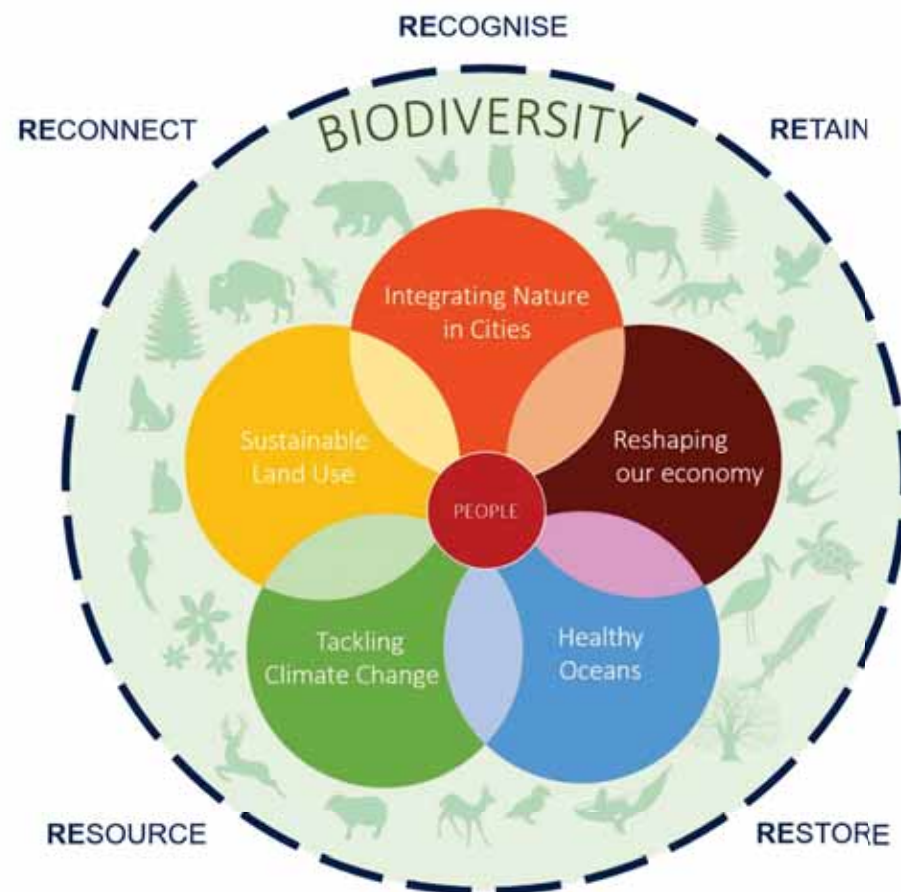


UNITED FOR LIFE AND LIVELIHOODS



IUCN European Regional office

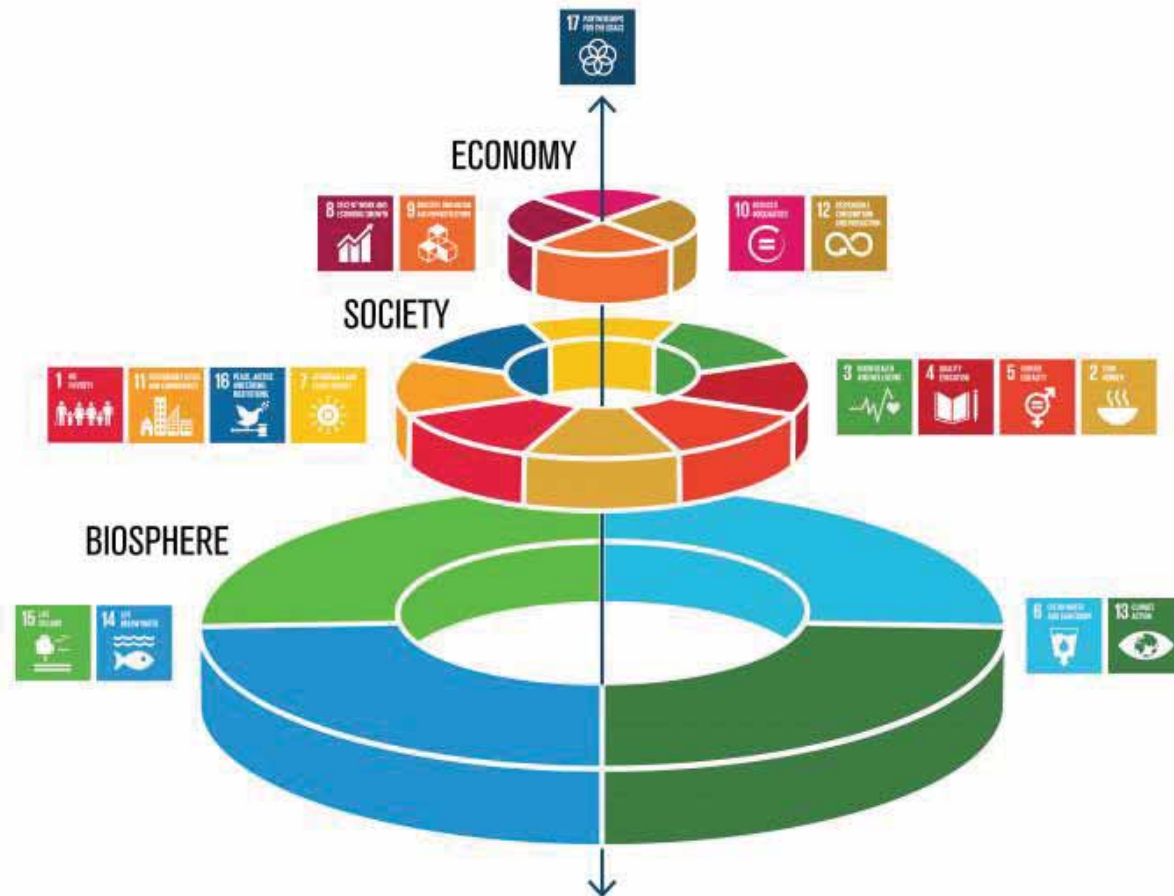
- The Brussels office has a key function **in connecting the work of IUCN with the EU institutions and the main stakeholders in the European context.**
- The IUCN European office has been **fostering debates with a wide range of stakeholders**, making diversity and inclusivity the driving principle of our efforts.
- Currently divided in four team: policy, biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions, and EU overseas



A just world that values
and conserves **nature**



The UN Sustainable Development Goals



© Azote for Stockholm Resilience Centre

The State of the Environment




69%

Average decline in species populations since 1970 (WWF)



2.8°C

Projected temperature rise by the end of the century (UNEP)



90%

Projected % of all soils are set to be degraded by 2050 (FAO)

Strategies to halt biodiversity loss

- In 2010, governments agreed on a set of 20 targets (Aichi Targets) to be achieved by 2020 to halt biodiversity loss: **none of them were met.**
- The European targets set by the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020 **were also not met.**
- Nevertheless, there was progress in certain areas

Aichi Targets

	1 Understand values		8 Reduce pollution		15 Enhance resilience
	2 Mainstream biodiversity		9 Reduce invasive spp.		16 Implement Nagoya Prot.
	3 Address incentives		10 Minimize reef loss		17 Revise NBSAPs
	4 Sustainable production		11 Protected areas		18 Respect and conserve TK
	5 Halve rate of loss		12 Prevent extinctions		19 Improve knowledge
	6 Sustainable fisheries		13 Conserve gene pool		20 Mobilize resources
	7 Manage within limits		14 Restore ecosystems		

© UN CBD

Why should we care?



Biodiversity is the pillar of life



cultural services

- Recreation and tourism
- Aesthetic values
- Inspiration
- Education and research
- Spiritual and religious experience
- Cultural identity and heritage
- Mental well-being and health
- Peace and stability



provisioning services

- Food
- Water
- Raw material
- Medicinal resources
- Ornamental resources
- Genetic resources



supporting services

- Ecosystem process maintenance
- Lifecycle maintenance
- Biodiversity maintenance and protection



regulating services

- Climate
- Natural hazards regulation
- Purification and detoxification of water, air and soil
- Water / water flow regulation
- Erosion and soil fertility regulation
- Pollination
- Pest and disease regulation

Figure 1: **Ecosystem services and related goods (adapted from multiple sources including the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005)**

The business case for biodiversity

- **Half of global GDP depends on nature:** Businesses are more dependent on nature than previously thought, with approximately \$44 trillion of economic value generation moderately or highly dependent on nature.
- **Five of the top ten risks** for businesses identified by the 2022 Global Risks Report of the World Economic Forum **are related to nature.**
- In Trentino, for example, nature is a core asset for the tourism sector. Imagine how different the economy would be without the Dolomites or without the Garda Lake.



Top 10 Global Risks by Severity

Over the next 10 years



■ Economic ■ Environmental ■ Geopolitical ■ Societal ■ Technological

Source: World Economic Forum Global Risks Report 2022

“Investment into nature restoration adds €8 to €38 in economic value for every €1 spent”



What are the European
Union strategies?

Biodiversity is rising in the policy agenda

- Biodiversity loss is achieving the same level of interest, public awareness and **political relevance** as climate change.
- The European Commission is leading by example with the release of the **EU Green Deal**.
 - It tackles the green transition in a holistic manner by introducing several policies and legislative initiatives
- The EU is also a key player in the global negotiations under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

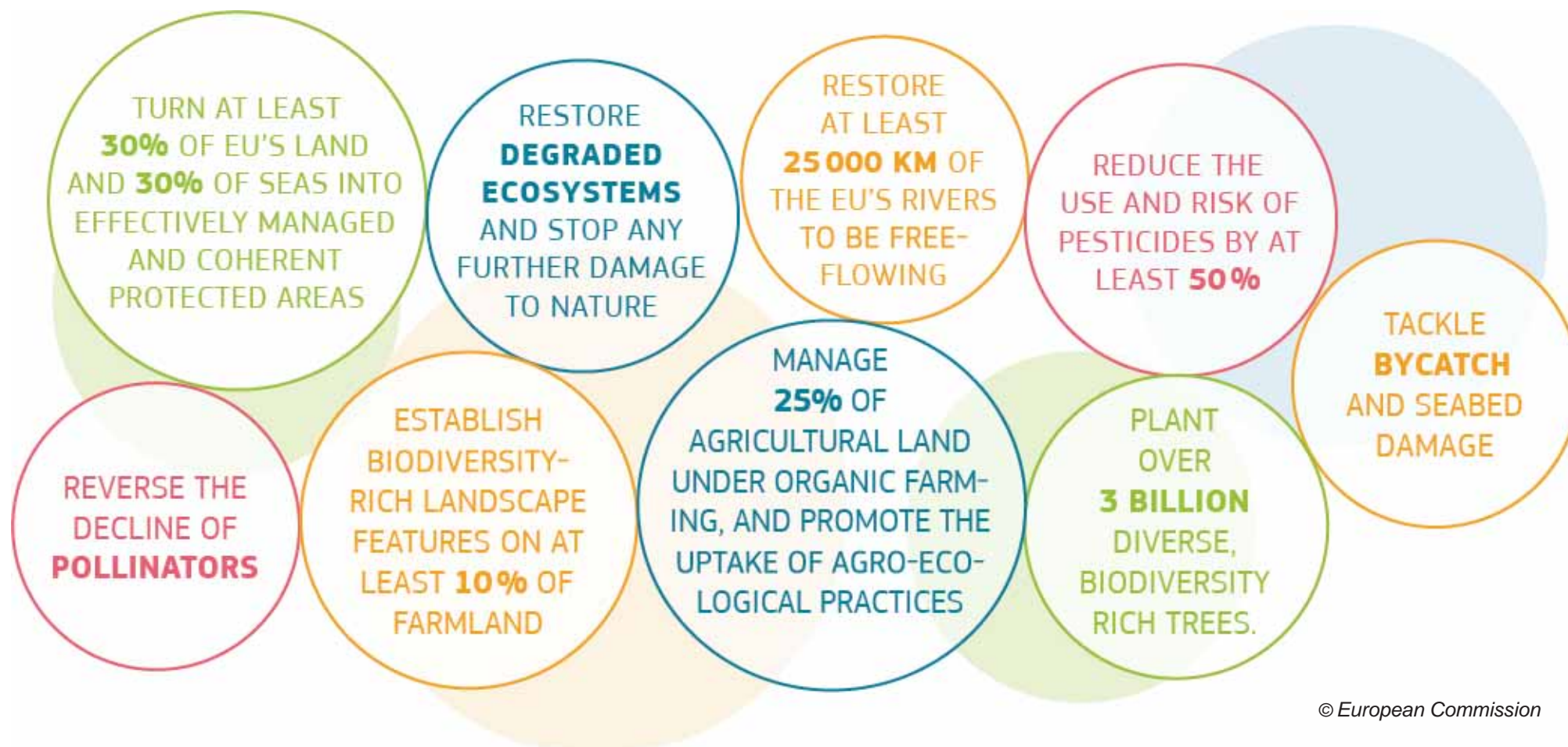


The European Green Deal



© European Commission

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030



The EU Nature Restoration Law

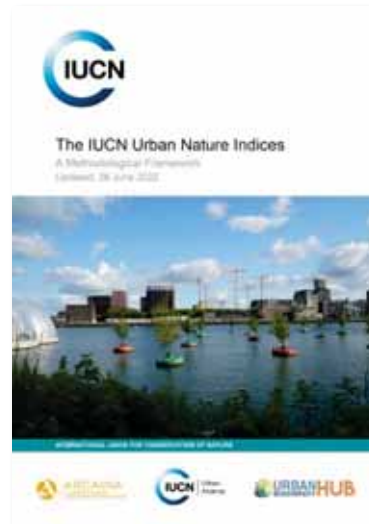
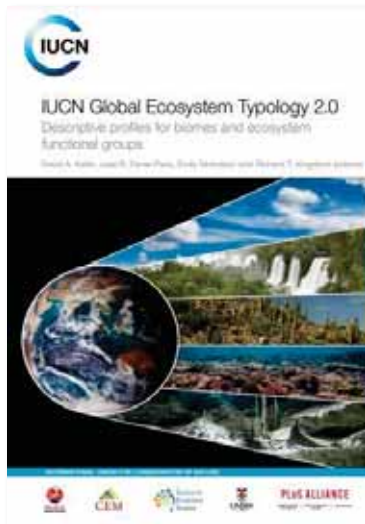
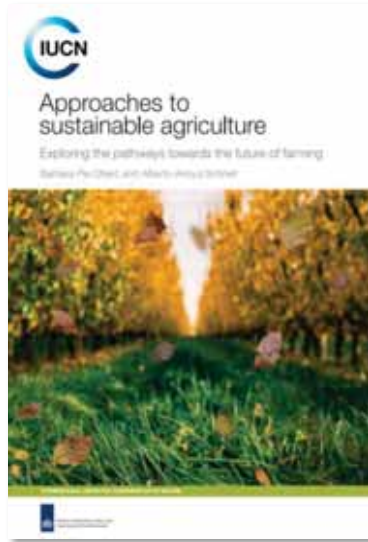
- The overall target is to establish restoration measures that should cover **at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas by 2030**, and ultimately all ecosystems in need of restoration by 2050.
- Specific ecosystem addressed include: wetlands, forests, grasslands, river and lakes, heath & scrub, rocky habitats and dunes, urban ecosystems, agricultural ecosystem, marine ecosystems, and pollinators.
- Member States are required to develop **National Restoration Plans**.





What is IUCN doing?



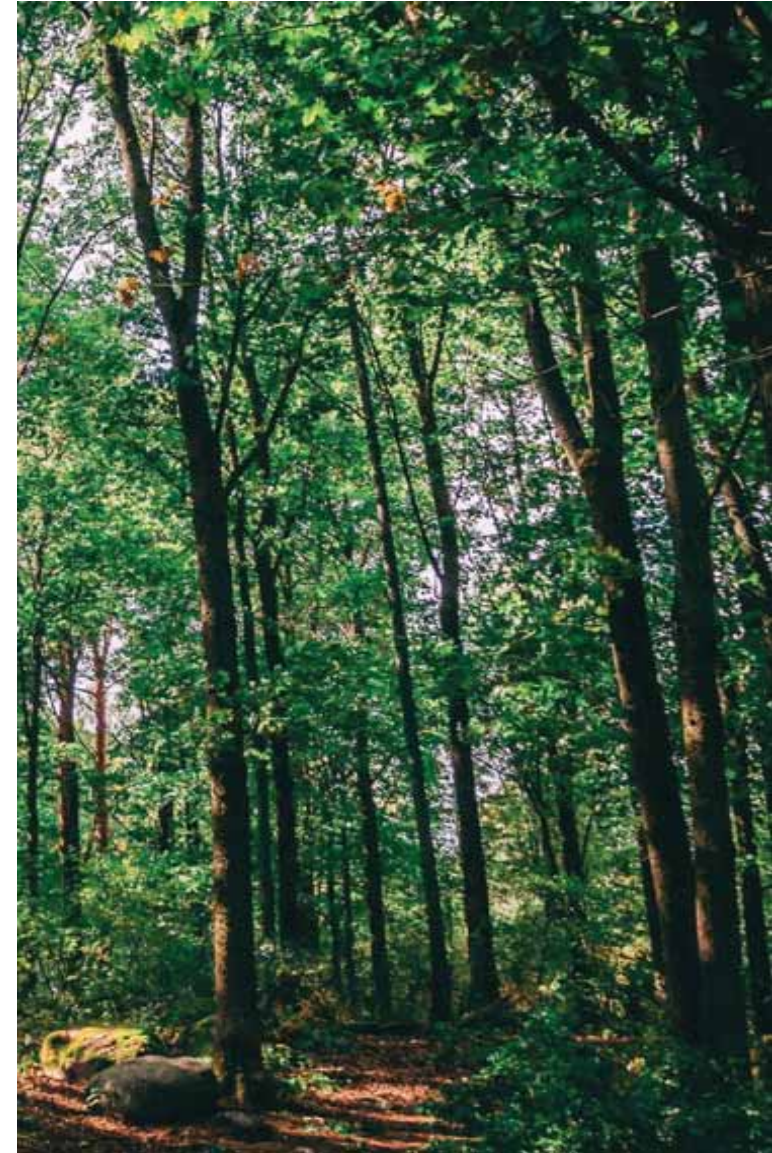


What can *you* do for nature?



How can you help ensuring a sustainable future for all?

- Even though we need transformational change, keep in mind that individual actions matter.
- Integrate biodiversity considerations in your business model
- Raise awareness about the environmental crisis
- Engage in policy processes and make your voice heard. All international strategies will be translated at the national and local level.



Thank you for your attention!

