

## **Submission on elements for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake**

***International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)***

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The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the elements for the consideration of outputs component of the first global stocktake (GST) in response to the invitation to Parties and non-Party stakeholders from the SBSTA and SBI ([FCCC/SB/2023/L.3](#)). These inputs have been provided taking into account the guiding questions prepared by the SB Chairs for this component (dated 28 July 2023), in line with paragraph 7 of [decision 19/CMA.1](#). They also build on IUCN's previous [submissions](#) and [participation](#) in the technical assessment phase of the GST.

The synthesis report of the Sixth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change ([IPCC AR6](#)), released in March 2023, has brought into sharp focus the irreversible losses and damages that are presently accruing from climate change, as well as the cascading and compounding risks of overshooting the 1.5°C warming level – with the most vulnerable people and ecosystems being the hardest hit.

Given that UNFCCC COP28 will mark the culmination of the first GST, this offers Parties a vital opportunity to assess the collective progress made to date towards achieving the long-term goals of the Paris Agreement, and to course correct. Given the critical function of the GST in the overall architecture of the Paris Agreement, it is imperative that it succeeds in its main objective of driving greater ambition on all the goals of the Paris Agreement. The outcomes of this final phase of the GST must therefore deliver a strong and clear decision and/or declaration at COP28 that concretely results in Parties updating and enhancing, in a nationally determined manner, their actions and support, particularly when preparing and communicating their next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) in 2025, and in enhancing international cooperation for climate action (in accordance with Articles 4.9 and 14.3 of the Paris Agreement).

In IUCN's view, the key political messages for strengthening action and enhancing support from this component of the GST – in accordance with [Decision 19/CMA.1](#), para 34 and also taking into account the main findings of the [technical dialogue synthesis report](#) – must emphasise the following:

- 1. The imperative of limiting warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.** This is critical to minimise climate-related losses and damages to people and nature. Meeting this goal is also essential for the continued provision of critical ecosystem services from natural systems that represent nature's contributions to people, such as climate regulation, carbon storage and adaptation. This requires, first and foremost, the rapid and equitable phase out of fossil fuels and fossil fuel subsidies without any further delay, and the accelerated and equitable deployment of sustainable clean energy systems worldwide. In this respect, it would be important for the GST outcomes to urge all Parties to explicitly agree on a time-bound phase out of all fossil fuels, including oil and gas, within a framework that ensures a just transition.

- 2. Combating the climate crisis effectively demands simultaneously addressing the biodiversity loss crisis in an integrated and synergistic manner.** Building on the decisions taken by Parties at COP26 ([Decision 1/CP.26](#), preamble) and COP27 ([Decision 1/CP.27](#) para 1 and [Decision 1/CMA.4](#), para 1), the GST outcomes at COP28 must strongly reinforce the interlinkages between the climate and biodiversity crises and clearly recognise, support and provide pathways for the protection, restoration and sustainable management of the world’s ecosystems, bearing in mind that these nature-based solutions<sup>1</sup> provide immediate and cost-effective benefits for both mitigation and adaptation simultaneously, while also supporting biodiversity conservation and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This is also consistent with Article 5.1 of the Paris Agreement, which states that “Parties should take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1 (d), of the Convention, including forests”. The technical dialogue synthesis report has also noted that halting and reversing deforestation by 2030 and restoring and protecting natural ecosystems can provide important adaptation and mitigation benefits in the near term across all regions. The GST outcomes could also highlight the importance of ensuring greater operational synergies across all the key international policy processes that govern the world’s terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, in particular, inter alia, the three Rio Conventions, and welcome the recent adoption of the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) by the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and stress the importance of establishing and strengthening appropriate functional connections between their respective instruments and mechanisms.
  
- 3. The importance of Parties reflecting their highest possible ambition while developing their next NDCs.** The GST outcome should encourage all Parties to concretely include their highest possible mitigation and adaptation ambition across all sectors in their NDCs as well as in their National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and Long-Term Low Emission Development Strategies (LT-LEDS), in accordance with the provisions of the Paris Agreement. In this respect, IUCN particularly encourages Parties to include more concrete and ambitious nature-based solutions within each of these instruments, noting that at COP27 Parties were explicitly encouraged “to consider, as appropriate, nature-based solutions or ecosystem-based approaches, taking into consideration United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/5, for their mitigation and adaptation action while ensuring relevant social and environmental safeguards” ([Decision 1/CP.27](#), para 52 and [Decision 1/CMA.4](#), para 81). For example, the [Blue Carbon and Nationally Determined Contributions: Guidelines on Enhanced Action](#), co-published by IUCN in July 2023, provides updated guidance on how countries may concretely include blue carbon ecosystems – mangroves, sea grasses and tidal marshes – within their future NDCs. However, these nature-based solutions must not be used either as a substitute for or as a means to postpone ambitious GHG emission reduction efforts in other sectors, but rather be implemented in addition to them. Furthermore, all actors that are implementing these solutions, whether through market or non-market-based approaches, should adhere to a high-integrity approach in their design, verification and scaling up by applying the [IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions](#).

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<sup>1</sup> According to [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA\) Resolution 5/5](#), nature-based solutions are “actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services, resilience and biodiversity benefits”. This directly builds on and incorporates the definition adopted by IUCN’s 1,400+ State and NGO Members at the [2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress](#) in Hawaii, USA ([WCC-2016-Res-069-EN](#)).

- 4. Finance is indispensable to achieving climate objectives.** The GST outcomes must call for an ambitious scaling up of global climate financing and funding to support meaningful action across the entire continuum of mitigation, adaptation and loss and damage, including through the scaled-up implementation of high-integrity nature-based solutions, with an increased proportion made directly available to Indigenous peoples and local communities. Despite being custodians and stewards of the world's most intact ecosystems, including over a third of the world's remaining irrecoverable carbon, Indigenous peoples and local communities have received less than 1% of climate change funding to date ([Noon et al 2022](#), [CI and IUCN 2023](#)). This must change. It is also estimated that investments in nature-based solutions need to at least triple in real terms by 2030 and increase four-fold by 2050 if the world is to meet its climate change, biodiversity and land degradation neutrality targets (UNEP [2021/2022](#)). In addition, the GST outcomes should call for a rapid increase in adaptation finance to achieve a balance between mitigation and adaptation financing, as per Article 9.4 of the Paris Agreement, noting that adaptation finance flows to developing countries are presently 5-10 times below estimated needs ([AGR 2022](#)). It should also call for the rapid and substantial operationalisation of the new funding arrangements for loss and damage that were agreed to at COP27 in [Decision 2/CMA.4](#).
  
- 5. Importance of inclusive and equitable climate policy and action.** The GST outcomes should also clearly acknowledge the core priorities, concerns, needs and rights of the most vulnerable, particularly Indigenous peoples, women and youth. It should encourage Parties to ensure the meaningful engagement of Indigenous peoples and local communities in climate policy development and implementation across all levels, and fully acknowledge and support Indigenous and traditional knowledge systems and rights, especially in relation to the management of natural resources and ecosystems. Given the continued relevance of gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, it should also call for the mainstreaming of gender-responsive climate policies and actions across all levels to help close existing gender gaps. Furthermore, it should stress the importance of ensuring intergenerational and intragenerational equity, and of meaningfully and equitably integrating youth voices and concerns in climate policy development and decision making. The GST outcomes should also acknowledge the key role played by non-Party stakeholders across different sectors in helping to deliver the mitigation and adaptation goals of the Paris Agreement, and encourage their greater engagement in raising overall ambition and effectiveness in addressing the interlinked climate and biodiversity crises, and in ensuring an equitable and just transition.

We thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this important process. More information on IUCN's views is also available at: [IUCN position paper for UNFCCC COP28](#).