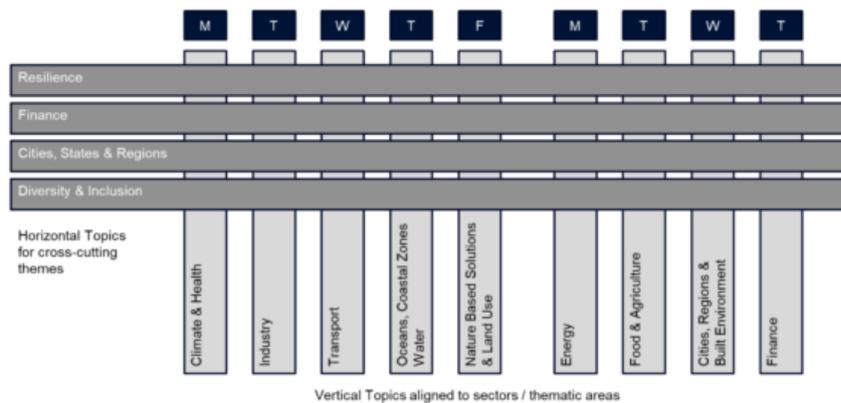


Race to Zero crosscutting themes.



Race to Zero: Call for Integrated Messaging -- Decarbonization + Nature-Based Solutions / Nature's place in your race

The warming climate and the collapse of biodiversity are creating a planetary emergency. Now, more than ever, is the time to resist silver bullet thinking. Although we are all working on different pieces of the response, it is important to acknowledge that the world needs a broad range of solutions, working in concert, not conflict, to emerge from the emergency. There's no more time for an "either/or" approach. We need to BOTH rapidly decarbonize the world's economy toward zero emissions AND halt the destruction of natural ecosystems, including tropical forests, while also taking steps to restore and sustainably manage landscapes. Doing one without the other puts the goals of the Paris Agreement out of reach, as well as jeopardizing sustainable development and global health.

[Nature4Climate](#) and its partners have been working for the past three years to ensure that the potential of natural climate solutions are understood within the broader context of climate action and sustainable development. In other words, combatting narratives that propose them as an alternative or a silver bullet, and promoting narratives that present them as a critical piece of a broader response. In our sessions during the Race to Zero day, we will ensure that this messaging is reinforced.

For the other Race to Zero sessions, our hope is that all partners take the opportunity, where appropriate, to reinforce the **key message that the private sector must support actions that rapidly reduce emissions and the destruction of natural ecosystems, and which promote renewable alternatives and nature-based solutions.**

In terms of each of each of Race to Zero's thematic days, we've outlined key nature-related messages that support this overall narrative and touch on "nature's place in your race." Then, below, we've also prepared more detailed messaging and proof points for reference.

Climate and Health

- Healthy ecosystems provide clean water, clean air, protect against natural disasters, furnish life-saving medications and ensure long-term food security.
- Protecting natural ecosystems will, in all likelihood, reduce risks of new zoonotic diseases spreading to humans, mitigating the risk of another pandemic like COVID-19.

Industry

- Nature loss matters for most businesses – through impacts on operations, supply chains, and markets. Research shows that \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world’s total GDP – is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services.
- Critical that natural resources are sustainably managed, including in the production of new technologies.

Transport

- In developing and planning for resilient low-carbon transport networks, particularly in new urban areas, it is important to champion integrated, far-sighted planning that keeps as much nature intact as possible.

Energy

- Natural climate solutions have a role to play in hard-to-abate sectors to help bridge the gap on the path to net zero, as long as they are part of science-based, bold emission reduction strategies.
- Governments should establish principles and conditions under which hard-to-abate sectors can finance nature-based solutions in parallel to aggressive decarbonisation of their emissions.

Food and Agriculture

- Food production systems that favor crop diversity and plant-based nutrition tend to be more biodiversity and climate-supportive than systems that prioritize animal protein, dairy, and starchy vegetables. Reforming these systems not only helps farmers adapt to climate variability and promote on-farm biodiversity but also encourages healthier diets and improved food security.

Cities and the built environment

- Bringing nature into cities is essential. Trees can improve thermal comfort by providing shade from solar radiation and reducing air temperatures.
- Urban greening strategies were found to reduce mortality rates under projected average warm season and heat wave conditions in 2050, by approximately 50%, depending on models and conditions.

Finance

- Natural climate solutions receive less than 8% of public climate finance, up from 3% in 2018. While this increase is welcome, it is still deeply insufficient.
- There are far too many financial incentives that are encouraging deforestation and unsustainable land use. Forty times more finance is flowing into these activities than is going to green finance.

TOP 'NATURE'S PLACE IN THE RACE' MESSAGES:

1. *Time is ticking.* We know that natural climate solutions have the potential to provide around a third of the solution to climate change by 2030 and are one of the most powerful ways for countries to enhance their national climate commitments in the lead up to COP26. Nature-based solutions must be integrated into every single NDC - and can also play a critical role in carbon-neutral nature-positive recovery packages.
2. *We are seeing more conversation and interest but need more action on the ground and from governments.* Nearly all private sector companies can and should integrate nature-based solutions into their science-based climate change (and nature-positive) strategies. There are a wealth of nature-based resources for companies to seek guidance from including the Science Based-Targets Network, Business for Nature, We Mean Business, the NCS Alliance, the Tropical Forest Alliance, We Value Nature.
3. *No time like the present,* Nature-based solutions are ready to be implemented on a global scale and must be designed in accordance with [principles](#) that responsibly tackle the climate crisis, restore biodiversity, and benefit planetary health and human well-being. States and non-state actors can now use the [IUCN Global Standard](#) on nature-based solutions to guide implementation.

Topic	Nature-based messaging	Supporting proof points
Climate and Health	<p>We need intact, resilient ecosystems to help meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Science estimates that these natural climate solutions can provide a third of the solution required to meet the Paris goals by 2030.</p> <p>Healthy ecosystems provide clean water, clean air, protect against natural disasters, furnish life-saving medications and ensure long-term food security.</p> <p>Protecting natural ecosystems will, in all likelihood, reduce risks of new zoonotic diseases spreading to humans, mitigating the risk of another pandemic like COVID-19.</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions will contribute to the resilience of millions of households that are already threatened by the effects of climate change and have the potential to avoid more than \$3.7 trillion in damages from climate change. (source page 39)</p> <p>Nature loss can exacerbate the effects of air pollution, a major threat to health that causes between 3.4 and 8.9 million deaths every year.</p> <p>Urban greening strategies have been found to reduce mortality rates under projected average warm season and heat wave conditions in 2050 by approximately 50%.</p>
Industry	<p>Almost everything we use in industry is from extraction or exploitation of natural resources and are energy intensive in their industrial processes. This includes mining, cement, iron and steel, chemicals, aluminium, and pulp and paper.</p> <p>Without nature, we have fewer industrial jobs and fewer long-term opportunities. Embracing a nature-positive framework for infrastructure</p>	<p>Most sector scenarios project that global demand for industrial products will increase by 45–60% by 2050 relative to 2010 production levels.</p> <p>Rising demand for products used to reduce GHG emissions (e.g. insulation materials for buildings) and to adapt to climate impacts (e.g. materials for flood protection) could, perversely, create</p>

	<p>and development is essential for business, the climate and planetary stability.</p> <p>The World Economic Forum’s 2020 Global Risks Report ranks biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse as one of the top five threats humanity will face in the next ten years.</p> <p>Nature loss matters for most businesses – through impacts on operations, supply chains, and markets.</p>	<p>pressures to increase industrial emissions.</p> <p>Human societies and economies rely on biodiversity in fundamental ways. Research shows that \$44 trillion of economic value generation – over half the world’s total GDP – is moderately or highly dependent on nature and its services.</p>
Transport	<p>Transport is reliant on intact nature. Impacts of climate change include more intense droughts and floods, heat waves, thawing permafrost and sea-level rise could damage transport infrastructure such as roads, railways and ports, requiring extensive adaptation and changes to route planning in some regions.</p> <p>Efficient, low-carbon transport systems have significant co-benefits such as better access to mobility services for the poor, time saving, energy security, and reduced urban pollution which can lead to better health.</p> <p>Integrated, far-sighted planning that keeps as much nature intact as possible (using the mitigation hierarchy) can create resilient low-carbon transport networks, particularly in new urban areas.</p>	<p>British Airways, Qantas and American Airlines are among the 13 major airlines to have signed a new joint commitment to reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. Orchestrated by global aviation alliance oneworld, the commitment will see the airlines invest in more fuel-efficient aircraft, sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and carbon offsetting to bring their net emissions footprint to zero by mid-century.</p> <p>If we cut down forests to create railway systems - how can we mitigate the damage? The main concept is the “polluter pays” principle, which refers to paying for damage that you do to the environment. Although usually thought of for pollution, this should apply for biodiversity losses too.</p> <p>If compensation goes beyond ensuring no net loss of biodiversity, it is known as “net gain,” which is preferable.</p> <p>We are losing biodiversity (e.g., deforestation) due to energy, mining, infrastructure, commercial agriculture, and other development, but <i>very little</i> of this loss is compensated for. That compensation could represent an enormous new stream of revenue for conservation to fight the biodiversity crisis and nature loss.</p> <p>2019 Estimated Flow: US\$ 6.3–9.2 billion per year</p>

		<p>2030 Potential Flow: US\$ 162.0–168.0 billion per year</p> <p>Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap</p>
Ocean, coastal, water	<p>Freshwater, coastal and marine habitats play vital roles in storing carbon and shielding humans from climate change impacts.</p> <p>The world’s remaining intact ecosystems and biomes are hotspots for both biodiversity and carbon storage while also protecting people from climate change impacts. Yet many of these areas lack effective protection or are poorly managed.</p>	<p>Restoring forests, peatlands, and mangroves globally has the potential to reduce global CO₂e emissions by 10 billion tons annually with more than one-third included in carbon markets.</p> <p>If today’s mangroves were lost, 18 million more people would be flooded every year (a 39% increase) and annual damages to property would increase by 16% (\$82 billion).</p>
Energy	<p>Nature plays a critical role alongside decarbonisation of the energy sector.</p> <p>Natural climate solutions have a role to play in hard-to-abate sectors to help bridge the gap on the path to net zero, as long as they are part of science-based, bold emission reduction strategies.</p> <p>Governments should establish principles and conditions under which hard-to-abate sectors can finance nature-based solutions in parallel to aggressive decarbonisation of their emissions.</p> <p>We are at the beginning of an enormous global buildout of clean energy infrastructure—we need at least a <i>nine-fold increase</i> in renewable energy production to meet the Paris Agreement goals. But this buildout must be done fast and smart to avoid further nature loss.</p>	<p>Natural climate solutions have the potential to provide around a third of the solution to climate change by 2030 and are one of the most powerful ways for countries to enhance their national climate commitments in the lead up to COP26.</p> <p>There is plenty of previously developed land that can be used to meet our clean energy needs—at least 17 times the amount needed to meet the Paris Agreement goals.</p>
Food and Ag	<p>Food production systems that favor crop diversity and plant-based nutrition tend to be more biodiversity and climate-supportive than systems that prioritize animal protein, dairy, and starchy vegetables. Reforming these systems not only helps farmers adapt to climate variability and promote on-farm biodiversity but also encourages healthier diets and improved food security.</p>	<p>In light of the COVID-19 crisis, the IMF has urged governments to incorporate environmental concerns into their fiscal recovery packages to ensure a sustainable recovery. 127 Other international organizations such as the World Trade Organization (WTO) are able to serve as watchdogs and develop international rules and disciplines on harmful subsidies.</p>

<p>Cities and the built environment</p>	<p>Many emerging climate change risks are concentrated in urban areas. Urban areas hold more than half the world's population and most of its built assets and economic activities. They also house a large proportion of the population and economic activities most at risk from climate change.</p> <p>Bringing nature into cities is essential. Trees can improve thermal comfort by providing shade from solar radiation and reducing air temperatures.</p> <p>Urban greening strategies were found to reduce mortality rates under projected average warm season and heat wave conditions in 2050, by approximately 50%, depending on models and conditions.</p>	<p>Urban areas benefit from nature. They are home to 56% of the population today which is expected to increase to 68% by 2050.</p> <p>Urban areas, if used for exercise, can be part of a solution to address the global rise in non-communicable diseases, which account for 88% of European deaths.</p> <p>Currently, 42 countries have biodiversity offset policies in place, but with evidence of enforcement from fewer than 20% of these countries (source Funding the Nature Gap 2020).</p>
<p>Finance</p>	<p>There are far too many financial incentives that are encouraging deforestation and unsustainable land use.</p> <p>We need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integration of material risks in private sector investment decisions • Agricultural subsidy reform • Uplifting and mainstreaming ODA finance • Natural infrastructure, offsetting policies and planning • Domestic finance by national governments • Green lending and financial products 	<p>Financing the biodiversity funding gap report estimates financial flows into global biodiversity conservation in 2019 as between US\$ 124 and US\$ 143 billion. This represents a near-tripling in funding since 2012 but, to put it in context, spending on agricultural, forestry, and fisheries subsidies that degrade nature is at least two to four times greater. And that does not include subsidies for fossil fuels.</p> <p>To deliver the full potential of NCS, we need to properly value the benefits they provide, and then there needs to be a significant transformation in existing flows of domestic and international finance, as well as the generation of new sources of finance.</p>
<p>General</p>	<p>Nature-based solutions must be part of a broad portfolio of solutions that include dramatic reductions in emissions in our energy, transport, industry and building systems, as well as changes in agricultural practices and consumer habits.</p> <p>Rising emissions of greenhouse gases, the destruction of nature, inefficient use of land</p>	<p>- Nine out of the 15 big biophysical systems that regulate climate are now on the move, showing worrying signs of decline and potentially approaching tipping points.</p> <p>- A fifth of all countries face ecosystem collapse from mass biodiversity loss.</p> <p>- Almost a quarter of global carbon emissions are generated from agriculture, deforestation and other</p>

	<p>and patterns of consumption are hurtling us toward a climate breakdown and collapse of biodiversity by the end of the century that may exceed our ability to adapt.</p>	<p>forms of land use, with the global loss of tropical forests contributing 10% of annual emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A million different species are currently at risk of extinction - The World Economic Forum estimates that nature provides \$125 trillion in assets to humanity, but more than half of global GDP (\$44 trillion) is potentially threatened by biodiversity loss.