



3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022

Dear EU Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Development Co-operation,

**Subject: EU Member State Commitments on Global Biodiversity Finance**

We are pleased to write on behalf of a number of the world's leading non-governmental organisations working on conservation in the Global South, including BirdLife International, Conservation International Europe, International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), Rainforest Alliance and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). We are writing in advance of the meeting of EU Development Ministers on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> March in Montpellier in which we understand the important issue of financing for biodiversity will be discussed, and urge you to make strong, ambitious financial commitments.

We would first like to express our support for the work of many of your Ministries during the past decades to lead the global fight against environmental degradation and biodiversity loss. This has included long-term financial support to some of the most important remaining areas for biodiversity in Africa in particular, which would be facing a much more perilous situation today without your support. Such investments have also resulted in important socio-economic benefits for local communities, by creating jobs and economic opportunities for women, providing clean energy, and securing education and future opportunities for young people

The economic and social well-being and resilience of Indigenous Peoples and local communities across the global south is directly linked to ecosystem health. Healthy ecosystems are the foundation for achieving many development priorities, including climate adaptation and mitigation; strengthened resilience, including to increasing climatic extremes and natural disasters; and to delivering multiple environmental, social and economic benefits, such as protection from zoonotic diseases, climate regulation, as food and nutrition, security, clean water, health and sanitation, economic development, jobs and sustainable livelihoods, peace and human security. Not tackling such issues holistically risks undermining the benefits of development cooperation in other areas.

The new report released this week by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reemphasises the devastating consequences of inaction on climate change. Healthy ecosystems are also at the heart of our ability to tackle climate change and failing to adequately finance biodiversity will have cascading impacts on the world's ability to meet climate commitments. Furthermore, the 2022 World Economic Forum report is dominated by environmental risks, with biodiversity loss mentioned as the third highest risk globally over the next decade.

Continued leadership on biodiversity finance is particularly important at this moment, with political momentum building in the run up to the next meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), scheduled to take place in Kunming, China later this year. The CBD COP will be a landmark conference at which a new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) will be negotiated. A finance gap of \$60bn for biodiversity in developing countries, has recently been identified. Agreement on resource

mobilisation, including subsidy reform and new financial commitments for delivery of the GBF, will be key to the success of the conference.

We therefore hope to count on your support for strong, ambitious commitments, in line with the commitment made by European Commission President von der Leyen in September 2021, in which she announced that the EU would double its external funding for biodiversity.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like further information on this issue and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

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