**Nature-Based Solutions for Climate**

**NBS Leaders quotes for media outreach during the UN Climate Action Summit 2019**

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**Headlines**

· Countries are waking up to nature’s potential: more than 40 countries representing over a third of the world’s population have responded to a call from China and New Zealand to increase support for nature-based solutions.

· Benefits are already being delivered: More than 200 existing nature-based initiatives from around the world were submitted as part of China and New Zealand’s call to action.

· China is emerging as a champion for nature: China has emerged as a champion for nature-based solutions to climate change -- not only by promoting some of the successes they’ve made at home, but also by actively recruiting other nations to step up their support for nature.

· Innovation is happening: More than a third of the events of Climate Week focus on nature-based solutions, demonstrating the huge amount of innovation and progress taking place on the ground.

· People are taking note: Greta Thunberg’s video on natural climate solutions, done with George Monbiot, has reached more than 1 billion people in less than 24 hours.

· Decade of restoration: Nature is an essential tool for addressing the threats to climate, biodiversity and sustainable development in the coming decade. The reality of this is sinking in and the politics are shifting to launch a decade of restoration in 2020.

· The growing movement for people and nature: We need #naturenow: Governments, businesses, civil society and members of the public need to rally together to *protect, restore and fund* nature-based solutions.

**Special guest/NBS coalition:**

*« It is because the link between Oceans and climate is so important, that I wanted Monaco to engage in the NBS coalition. I am convinced that science should be the basis of all decision-making.”* **H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco**

**INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

*“Nature is one of our most powerful, cost-effective and immediate solutions to the climate crisis. And when we give nature a chance, we have a better shot at improving livelihoods, building resilience and achieving the sustainable development goals. We simply cannot achieve a 1.5°C world without nature. “*

***Inger Andersen, UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director UN Environment Programme***

*We often confuse price, cost and value – but with Nature Based Solutions such confusion is inexcusable. We say “Nature is priceless”, but sadly we somehow equate the destruction of nature as being value-less and cost-less. Help banish the confusion.* ***Tony Simons, Executive Director, CIFOR-ICRAF***

*Forests first evolved 380 million years ago;*

*Human ancestors first controlled fire 380 thousand years ago.*

*Agriculture started 10,000 years ago;*

*In the last 10,000 years, we have lost half of the world’s forest.*

*In the past 200 years, we have kept breaking records with climate;*

*In the past 20 years, we have kept breaking promises on climate.*

*A 10-year-old has witnessed an increase of 25ppm in atmospheric CO2 in their lifetime (200 billion extra tonnes of CO2);*

*We need to concentrate on this crisis as we have less than 10 years to turn it around.*

***Tony Simons, Executive Director, CIFOR-ICRAF***

*“Nature-Based Solutions will be a key component to decarbonise our planet. We look forward to working with governments to include bamboo as a nature based solution to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change, to reconnect humans and nature and to harmonise development with environmental consciousness. ”* ***Ali Mchumo****,* ***Director General, International Bamboo and Rattan Organisation (INBAR).***

*“IFAD works with smallholder farmers and rural producers who use the power of nature itself to increase their resilience to climate shocks, while at the same time nurturing and restoring the natural resource base. Nature-based solutions represent a means to help us to enhance the sustainability of food systems and feeding a growing population. It is imperative that we use the momentum generated this year to drive real change. With the right policies and investments, it is estimated, agriculture could unlock an additional $2 trillion in rural growth, immeasurably helping the families who live and work on the 500 million small farms worldwide.”*

***Gilbert F. Houngbo, President, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).***

**"***The best solution to the crisis of Nature is Nature itself. The international community now confronts twin crises in climate change and biodiversity loss while urgently needing to continue to advance sustainable development for all the world’s peoples. Nature-Based Solutions are key to progress across these critical areas. Science clearly tells us that by conserving and restoring Nature, we can achieve up to 30% of the carbon reductions necessary to meet the Paris Agreement. At the same time, sustainably and equitably utilizing nature can protect our planet’s rich biodiversity and safeguard the critical ecosystem services that human society directly depends on, including our clean water, air, and food. Nature-Based Solutions, moreover, provide critical economic opportunities and help preserve the ways of life and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and youth, and, indeed, all citizens in our diverse societies."* **Dr. Cristiana Pasca Palmer, UN Assistant Secretary General and Executive Secretary of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity**

*“Natural areas such as forests, mangroves and peatlands could help us greatly enhance global climate ambition by 2020, while also protecting vulnerable communities from the worst impacts of climate change and conserving the rich diversity of life on this planet. All countries can strengthen their climate commitments by substantially incorporating nature-based solutions within them. The global community cannot afford to overlook nature’s full potential to help the world mitigate and adapt to climate change.”****Grethel Aguilar, IUCN Acting Director General***

*“Nature-based solutions represent a powerful source of cost-effective climate mitigation and adaptation, and help address a number of important development challenges. IUCN looks forward to working with all countries to boost nature’s role in tackling climate change, and supporting and advancing global ambition by 2020 and beyond”****Xinsheng Zhang, IUCN President***

“*By integrating environmentally sensitive technologies into the planning, design, and construction of urban, coastal, and marine infrastructure, it is possible to harness natural processes both for ecological enhancement and improved structural performance, thus bridging development and sustainability. Apart from the highly valuable ecological and structural advantages, these methods also provide economic advantages associated with increased stability, longevity, as well as a reduction in maintenance costs. As many countries are adopting strategies of “Blue Growth”, aimed at supporting sustainable management of marine resources in the maritime sectors, interest in integrating environmentally sensitive multi-function solutions to reduce the ecological and carbon footprint of working waterfronts, ports, marinas, and cities is on the rise; however, in order to achieve a significant ecological uplift globally, there is a need for large scale implementation, calling for practical solutions that can be simply and cost-effectively implemented.”*

**Dr. Shimrit Perkol-Finkel and Dr. Ido Sella, Co-founders of ECOncrete Tech Ltd.**

**PRIVATE SECTOR**

*“We’ve long been aware of the climate crisis, but we’re all now opening our eyes to the immense power that nature has to combat this. When we help nature, we help climate. Businesses understand how much we depend on nature, the risks of nature loss and the opportunities that come with preserving it. A business movement for nature is emerging.”* **Alan Jope, CEO, Unilever**

**“***Business is investing in nature, and we’re calling on policymakers to help us scale up. This is critical, not only because nature sequesters carbon, improves biodiversity, produces food and impacts livelihoods… but also because everyone, including business, depends on nature, which provides the raw materials and ecosystem services we need to produce what we do. Nature sustains business, just as nature sustains us.***”Peter Bakker, President and CEO, World Business Council for Sustainable Development**

*“After personally experiencing the wrath of Hurricane Dorian, I can’t more clearly express how our families, homes, and societies are made safer and more prosperous by healthy nature. Our political, industry, and media leaders must act urgently to conserve and restore the ecosystems that power economies, sustain inspirational wildlife, provide billions of people with food, medicines, and cultural identities, and shelter our communities from climate disasters. I’m a coral farmer. Half the world’s reefs are dead, and over 90% are on track to die within the next thirty years. It's frankly ridiculous that coral reef restoration is even necessary, yet alone that I had to launch a startup to restore dying reefs because the crisis is so severe. These habitats are dying at our own hands. And the costs for maintaining the status quo are catastrophic. That’s why we need to rapidly upscale Nature-Based Solutions and jumpstart a Restoration Economy to protect, nourish, and revitalize the forests, high seas, mangroves, oyster beds, coral reefs, and each critically important ecosystem that sustains every single person on Earth. This is possible. This is necessary. And we must act now.”* ***Sam Teicher. Co-Founder and Chief Reef Officer | Coral Vita.***

*"The climate and ecological emergencies are inseparable and are impacting individual companies as well as whole economies. This is why business is stepping up to take bold action on both climate and nature and calling on governments to implement policies that reward the sustainable use of nature and give a clear direction towards net-zero emissions."* **Nigel Topping, CEO, We Mean Business**

*“Nature-based solutions are a vital component of the arboricultural profession. From the urban forest to remote rural roads our nature-based assessments highlight where we can prescribe the most beneficial nature based solutions. Street trees and plants forming green barriers are already mitigating traffic related air pollution and protecting the lungs of vulnerable pedestrians. Biophilic greening projects have created pleasant, thriving local economies with happier customers. Native trees and plants have rehabilitated landslips armouring and anchoring eroding surfaces while improving the fungal soil pathways and reducing antecedent moisture, a precursor to landslips. Nature based solutions are keeping communities connected through resilient infrastructure management. Stressed unhealthy trees have been saved by reverting their root zones to mimic a natural forests, creating more carbon storage. Nature based solutions do not decline over time they go from strength to strength, but only if we work with nature and not against it. “*

***Ken Scarlett Senior Consultant Arborist GreensceneNZ & GeoArb Ltd***

***“****Nature Based Solutions include The Sustainable Open Ocean Farming Imperative for the Future! In the United States and around the world, ocean farming has great potential to feed our rapidly expanding population healthy, sustainably produced, delicious seafood. Fish Farming is currently the fastest growing protein production sector in the world, as detailed in a recent report of the United Nations FAO. Utilizing nature’s energy and the dynamic ocean environment, it is now possible to produce seafood in the open ocean, without chemicals, and with negligible impact upon the environment. Sustainable seafood farming is an imperative for the future!”* ***Donna Lanzetta, CEO and Founder, Manna Fish Farms, Inc***

*“As businesses, we have a responsibility to meet the reality of our global climate and biodiversity crises head on. As such, we must be accountable for the full scope of our GHG emissions within our own operations and across the entire supply chain, and deliver nature-based solutions that mitigate them. This is an imperative and I urge other CEOs to offset all their remaining emissions once all efforts to avoid, reduce and restore have been exhausted. We cannot wait for technology to catch up and scale up to enable us to mitigate these unavoidable emissions in total and protecting and restoring critically important forests and biodiversity is a solution to act right now.”* ***Marco Bizzarri, President & CEO of Gucci***

*“Today, humans rely on only 9 plants for two thirds of their food. This focus on such a restricted number of cultivated species is a huge systemic risk for our food system. This needs to change, as restoring natural and cultivated biodiversity is our lifeline. As such, agriculture and nature-based solutions – such as regenerative practices restoring soil health, promoting diversity of crops, seeds and species, as well as helping farmers reach protein autonomy at the farm level – are critical to tackle these issues. It is urgent that we engage with all stakeholders about innovative, budget-efficient ways of financing social and climate built-in business solutions for the future.”* ***Emmanuel Faber, President & CEO of Danone***

***“****There is no path to 1.5 without massive mobilisation for nature-based solutions on agriculture, forests and oceans — to protect biodiversity, drive low-carbon economic growth, strengthen resilience and support rural and coastal livelihoods. True SDG force multiplier.”* ***Paul Polman, Chair of the ICC, Vice Chair of the UNGC, Co-Founder of IMAGINE and Co-Chair of the Food and Land Use Coalition***

**CIVIL SOCIETY**

*“Life on Earth faces two existential crises – climate and biodiversity – each of which is currently making the other worse. The future of humanity depends on acting quickly to solve both crises. Protecting and restoring biodiversity and ecosystem integrity is a fundamental building block for successful Nature Based Solutions. Nature Based Solutions can make a major contribution to tackling both crises provided: the protection and restoration of carbon rich primary ecosystems – forests, peatlands, mangroves and wetlands - is given high priority; restoration focuses on buffering and reconnecting primary ecosystems to rebuild ecosystem resilience, stability and long term carbon stocks; and all actions improve the outlook for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity. Supporting the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities is an obvious mechanism for achieving these goals.”* ***Melanie Coath, co-chair Climate Action Network (CAN) Ecosystems working group***

*“We need a rapid shift towards genuinely sustainable food systems. Big industrial agriculture, which drives up emissions and leaves crops vulnerable to climate impacts, is no longer fit for purpose in an era of climate change. The Climate Action Summit needs to be a turning point for farming systems that work with nature instead of against it. The writing is on the wall for big agribusiness, and agroecology is going mainstream.”* ***Teresa Anderson, climate policy coordinator at ActionAid International***

*“Reviving and safeguarding the fabric of wetlands and water systems across rural and urban landscapes is a fundamental basis for sustainable development and climate adaptation to succeed. For deployment of nature based solutions at scale, governments and donors are called on to incentivize joined up action by different sectors, putting healthy ecosystems and their services at the heart of sustainable development and resilience measures. Not all the models are there and it is necessary to support experimentation and learning to move innovations forward, backed up by means to share knowledge and build capacity. Within this, the role of civil society should be recognised and supported to help facilitate synergies in planning and implementation across societal divides.”* ***Jane Madgwick, Chief Executive Officer of Wetlands International***

*“The need for development and the need to protect the forests that combat climate change are often seen as being at odds with each other. But we offer an alternate vision. We put at the disposal of humanity our traditional knowledge and experience of how to coexist with nature—to meet the needs of both people and planet.”*

***Levi Sucre Romero, Coordinator, AMPB*** *(Costa Rica)*

*“As everyone is scrambling to make sense of the climate crisis, strengthening indigenous and community rights is a nature-based solution that can be implemented right now. We need each and every member state of the UN to embrace the IPCC’s findings and make Indigenous Peoples partners in efforts to protect our planet and achieve sustainable development.”****Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*** *(Philippines)*

*“For years we have engaged the UN on climate—but the embrace of our land rights as a bulwark against climate change has proceeded at a glacial pace. But now, with the glaciers melting, our role in keeping the world’s tropical forests upright and the forest carbon out of the atmosphere has finally been highlighted as an important contribution to the world sustainability.”*

***Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim, Coordinator, AFPAT*** *(Chad)*

*“The science is clear. If you want to prevent the destruction of our most precious stores of carbon and biodiversity, forests offer the only existing, safe, affordable, large-scale nature-based solution, but in order to get there, we must first protect the sovereignty and dignity of indigenous and local communities over their lands, the knowledge they hold, and the values we should all adhere to.”*

***Alain Frechette, Director, Strategic Analysis, Rights and Resources Initiative***

*“If we don’t address the climate crisis, nothing else will matter. And if we don’t protect nature, we will fail to address the climate crisis. We’re working for radical collaboration among governments, businesses and indigenous peoples to unlock the force of nature to heal climate damage.”*

***M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International****​*

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*“Recognizing the rights of the world’s Indigenous Peoples and local communities is a crucial nature-based solution to climate change. When our rights are respected, we can continue protecting the world’s great forests and biodiversity hotspots, and keep the carbon in the trees and the soil. This is one of the only solutions to climate change that we know is safe, practical, and goes hand in hand with sustainable development.”*

***Gustavo Sánchez Valle, President, Red MOCAF*** *(Mexico)*

*“Nature-based climate solutions won’t automatically translate into a good outcome for biodiversity; some could do the complete opposite! Nature-based solutions must be about conserving and restoring wild places and planting indigenous species, so we can achieve biodiversity and climate objectives, while also generating decent local jobs. This is what we do across 15 parks in nine African countries, showing how parks can work for people and planet. It’s time to scale up our efforts”.* ***John E. Scanlon AO, Special Envoy African Parks***

*“Protecting and restoring wild, intact and functional nature is humanity’s most cost-effective insurance against climate breakdown and loss of biodiversity”*

***Vance G. Martin, President, The Wild Foundation***

*“It is obvious to any child who has played with bugs on a path that everything on this planet is connected. Nature-Based Solutions re-connects us to this fundamental truth that we knew in childhood. It will not only deliver a substantial amount towards achieving the climate targets, it will also provide so many other significant benefits to people, creating places where we want to live. There is after all no value in solving the climate problems on a desolate and empty planet.”*

 *“In order to deliver Nature Based Solutions we have to be able to understand the impacts and dependences we have on the natural world. To do this it helps to think of the natural resources as a form of capital that we have to conserve and enhance in order to receive the essential returns of pollination, fresh air and clean water.”*

 ***Mark Gough, Executive Director Natural Capital Coalition***

*“Of course it makes sense that protecting and restoring the Earth’s life support systems will help us address the climate crisis in essential ways, like storing carbon in forests, and biodiverse ecosystems enhancing resilience to climate shocks. But nature-based solutions also give nature itself -- all the billions of animal and plants species -- a chance to survive the dominance of human activities. In this way, nature-based solutions provide an opportunity for restorative justice, to the global climate and the non-human world. Let’s take up this challenge and the opportunities presented now. As one of my mentors, environmentalist and Nobel peace laureate Wangari Maathai, said so well: “ Those of us who witness the degraded state of the environment and the suffering that comes with it cannot afford to be complacent. We continue to be restless. If we really carry the burden, we are driven to action. We cannot tire or give up. We owe it to the present and future generations of all species to rise up and walk!”*

***Mia MacDonald, Executive Director, Brighter Green (***[***www.brightergreen.org***](http://www.brightergreen.org)***)***

*“Nature-Based Solutions like forests offer the perfect climate solution: cost-effective carbon capture that will create millions of green jobs for the people who need them the most while enhancing the health and climate resilience of our communities. Here in the U.S., our forests already capture and store nearly 15 percent of our carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels. They can do much more with our help, like planting billions of trees on readily available public land. American Forests is advancing this work with partners across the U.S. by planting trees, restoring climate-stressed forests to health, and advancing bold legislation to fund forests for climate at scale. We are thrilled to join with leaders from across the world to elevate and advance Nature-Based Solutions at the UN Climate Summit.”*

***Jad Daley, President and CEO of American Forests***

**FOUNDATIONS**

*A restored forest needs time to mature before it reaches its full potential. Thus, conserving existing forests is even more important than restoring, as they already offer various ecosystem services, such as sediment retention and rainwater infiltration. “Conserving the remaining forests and recovering those that have been cleared over the years are viable investments. This is an alternative that should be considered by water service managers across the country”, says the* ***executive director of the Boticário Group Foundation, Malu Nunes****.*

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“*Climate change affects the future sustainability, security, and equity of the food system. It is already causing shortages, resulting in environmental degradation, and driving the loss of biodiversity. The real impact is falling heaviest on the most vulnerable and marginalized people in our societies. At the same time, the globalized, fossil-fuel dependent industrial food system we have come to rely on is driving up GHG emissions and eroding human health, social cohesion, rural livelihoods, and important social, cultural, and spiritual traditions.*

*“Business-as-usual is no longer a viable path to follow. We need to accelerate major and rapid food system transformation, putting nature- and people-based solutions at the heart of all policies and commitments to tackle climate and mobilizing significant public, private, and philanthropic resources to adequately and effectively support this critical work. By approaching climate in the context of food systems, the range of adaptation and mitigation opportunities available to us widens immeasurably. From agroecological practices, to soil carbon sequestration, to reducing food-related energy and transportation emissions to changes in diet, food systems can be transformed to provide the nature-based climate solutions we urgently need. Food has positively influenced and shaped our value systems, our cultural heritage, fed us well, and been at the centre of our communities for millennia. It is the world’s greatest connector and it is our greatest hope for the future*.” **Ruth Richardson, Executive Director,** [**Global Alliance for the Future of Food**](https://futureoffood.org/)

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**Indigenous People**

*“Nature-Based Solutions are fundamental in solving climate challenges with respect for, and inclusion, of indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples’ traditional knowledge is mainly based on their close relation to nature but remains threatened by misappropriation, misuse and marginalization. Urgent action is needed to ensure that such knowledge systems do not disappear and are recognized as an equal source of information.”* ***Anne Nuorgam, Chair of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*** *(Saami- Finland)*

**ACADEMIA**

*“Nature-Based Solutions offer huge potential to address both the causes and consequences of climate change, whilst supporting biodiversity and thereby securing the flow of ecosystem services on which human well-being depends.”* ***Professor Nathalie Seddon.*** *University of Oxford.*

*“Though decarbonizing the economy is an urgent priority, we cannot achieve net-zero without scaling up implementation of Nature-based Solutions. Around 23% of GHG emissions comes from land use change, while close to 30% of the cost-effective mitigation needed through 2030 to keep warming below 2 degrees could be achieved by sustainably protecting and restoring our natural ecosystems.”* ***Professor Nathalie Seddon****. University of Oxford.*

*“Fully integrating NbS as solutions to both the climate and biodiversity crises requires a new approach in economic thinking, shifting from a focus on infinite economic growth to a recognition that the energy and material flows needed for human well-being must remain within safe biophysical limits.”* ***Professor Nathalie Seddon****. University of Oxford.*

*"We now face the two interrelated crises of global climate change and biodiversity loss – both of which result from unsustainable human pressure on the natural world. Integrated, urgent and joined-up actions are needed. Biodiversity underpins the integrity of ecosystems and is key to their resilience and adaptive capacities, resulting in denser and more stable ecosystem carbon stocks. Protecting and restoring the biodiversity and integrity of ecosystems - and particularly natural forests, peatlands, wetlands and mangroves - is a fundamental building block for successful NbS. To be effective, NbS must achieve: (1) reduce emissions in relevant time frames (2030 - 2050); (2) improve the outlook for biodiversity and ecosystem integrity; (3) support the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples and local communities; and (4) do no harm."* ***Professor Brendan Mackey. Griffith University Queensland, Australia.***

*“Nature Based Solutions (NBS) involve people in climate change adaptation in a beautiful way. NBS encourage people to work together with nature, instead of against nature. In that way, NBS elegantly encourage people to think about their environment and climate change. Growing awareness may develop and flourish into pro-environmental and climate responsible behavior. For people who live in environments that are poor in natural green or natural landscapes, NBS offer greening opportunities that invite curiosity, love, and passion for nature. Above all, NBS show that climate change can bring prosperity too.****” Ir. Amanda Krijgsman. Wageningen University & Research***

*"The future will be sustainable only if it ensures human and nature rights through nature-based solutions for people"* ***Dr Robert Nasi, Managing Director, CIFOR-ICRAF***

“*Nature-Based solutions (NBS) are an essential part of the solution for climate and biodiversity action. We have to work with nature, rather than against it. There is a strong need for evidence-base and region-specific knowledge about cost and benefits of NBS. Closer international and regional collaboration between governments, businesses and research institutes is important for upscaling NBS”.* ***Dr. Bram de Vos, Managing Director of the Environmental Sciences Group of Wageningen University & Research****.*