

# International Strategy 2030

Nature conservation  
beyond borders

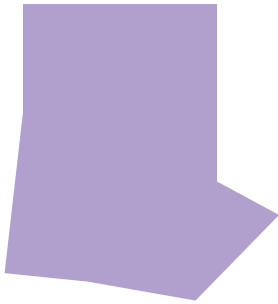
# **International Strategy 2030**

**Nature conservation  
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# BACKGROUND

1



In 2010, NABU's highest body, the General Meeting of Federal Representatives, adopted the 'Key Issues Paper for NABU's Future International Work'.

A year earlier, the decision had been made to establish the NABU International Foundation for Nature. Since then, NABU's international work has steadily expanded. All over the world, NABU uses its experience and skills to provide long-term structural support for nature conservation, working with strong partner organisations and holistic concepts. In comparison to 2010, however, there has been a sharp acceleration in climate change and species extinctions. In 2010 we talked about climate change; today we are talking about an urgent climate and biodiversity crisis. We desperately need to change the way we act politically and individually, the way we do business and run our economies, and the way we treat the environment. However, this cannot be resolved with individual national contributions: even if Germany, for example, were to meet its climate commitments in full, the effects could be nullified by deficits in other countries – and vice versa. If birds have good chances of survival on their migration routes outside Germany's borders, this boosts the effectiveness of bird protection within Germany. So NABU's international work requires global, joined-up thinking and action – because crises don't stop at borders.

### Our framework of action

NABU has therefore decided to develop a new strategy for its international nature conservation operations up to 2030. Not only do we need to take appropriate measures to tackle the climate and biodiversity crisis in Germany; we also need to complement these measures with strategic international work. Our aim is to recalibrate NABU's international profile, taking into consideration our 'Compass 2030'<sup>1</sup>.

At the heart of our strategy are five priorities that NABU has established as its core goals: protecting and restoring ecosystems, preserving species and biodiversity, building sustainable and climate-friendly economic and work structures, strengthening civil society to support nature conservation, and taking action on climate protection as well as mitigating climate change.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nabu.de/wir-ueber-uns/was-wir-tun/29639.html>

NABU's slogan translates as 'We are what we do. Living and breathing nature conservation – also internationally'. Inspired by our vision and mission, we will tackle the challenges and take action against the climate and biodiversity crisis.



Internationally, NABU relies on various kinds of partnership (civil society, businesses, state institutions). We will be focusing particularly on our role as a partner in the international BirdLife network.

Our strategy for international nature conservation through 2030 is consistent with NABU's environmental and social standards. It is also based on NABU's declaration of human rights<sup>2</sup> and the associated guidelines for interaction with indigenous peoples, actors in the international context, and public and private institutions in the project countries. Our work also complies with international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), and the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS).

### We are what we do

NABU's slogan translates as 'We are what we do. Living and breathing nature conservation – also internationally'. Inspired by our vision and our mission, we will tackle the challenges we face and take action against the climate and biodiversity crisis. Taking a holistic, nature-based approach, we will not only protect nature and animals, but also collaborate with locals and establish projects and programmes with impacts extending far beyond our international work on the ground. We are focused on sustainable development, and will maintain and expand our international position as a reliable and knowledgeable partner.

In this document, we present the challenges that anthropogenic climate change<sup>3</sup> and biodiversity pose for humanity, and the priorities and goals that NABU has set itself in tackling these.

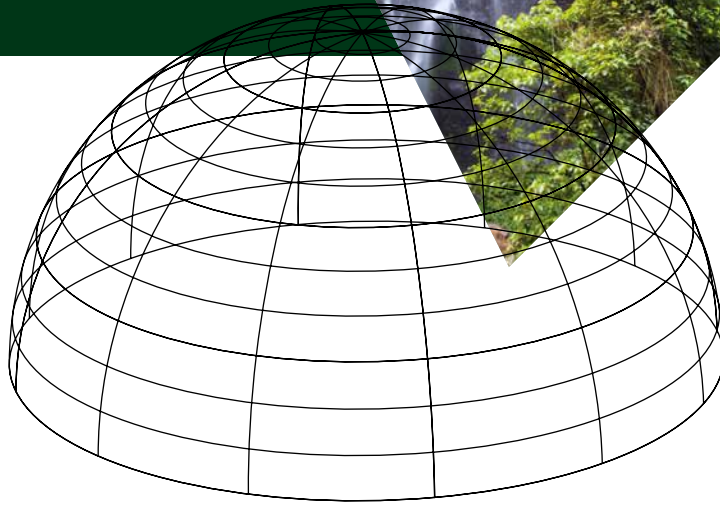
<sup>2</sup> <https://en.nabu.de/about/transparency.html>

<sup>3</sup> Anthropogenic climate change means that humans are influencing the climate system. The definition of 'anthropogenic' is 'caused by humans'.





# VISION, MISSION AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES


2



We see our role in the international context as that of a solutions-oriented implementing organisation, an advocate for endangered nature, and a representative and partner of civil society – with more than a hundred years of practical experience. Here we define the vision, mission and guiding principles underlying our international work.


 **Our vision.** Our vision is an Earth with intact ecosystems, a stable climate and a high level of biodiversity.

 **Our mission.** We want to structurally reduce damage to nature and the climate, while working with strong local actors to protect and restore biodiversity, the climate, ecosystems and their services. We want to make land use and other economic activities eco-friendly, promoting climate neutrality and a circular economy.

 **Our values.** Responsibility, transparency and fairness, trust and respect are the cornerstones of our work – both within NABU and in our partnerships. We work towards specific goals, take responsibility for our decisions and actions, and communicate our successes and failures transparently.

Diversity, democracy, freedom of opinion and freedom of the press, the rule of law, inclusion and social integration are self-evident principles to us. We value employees and partners from all backgrounds and cultures, with different abilities, skills and points of view. We are guided by our charitable remit and adhere to the highest standards of ethical behaviour. We also demand this from our partners, exerting pressure if necessary. This includes strictly rejecting any kind of corruption, preserving the personal integrity of our staff and volunteers, and taking a proactive and critical approach to possible conflicts of interest.

We ensure that all international conventions and national and local laws are applied in the course of our activities. We incorporate human rights in all our partnerships, including respect for the traditions and cultures of the countries and regions where we work. We see ourselves as a learning organisation, evaluating established ideas and practices, learning from experience, and developing and implementing new methods and concepts. We also work to implement the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

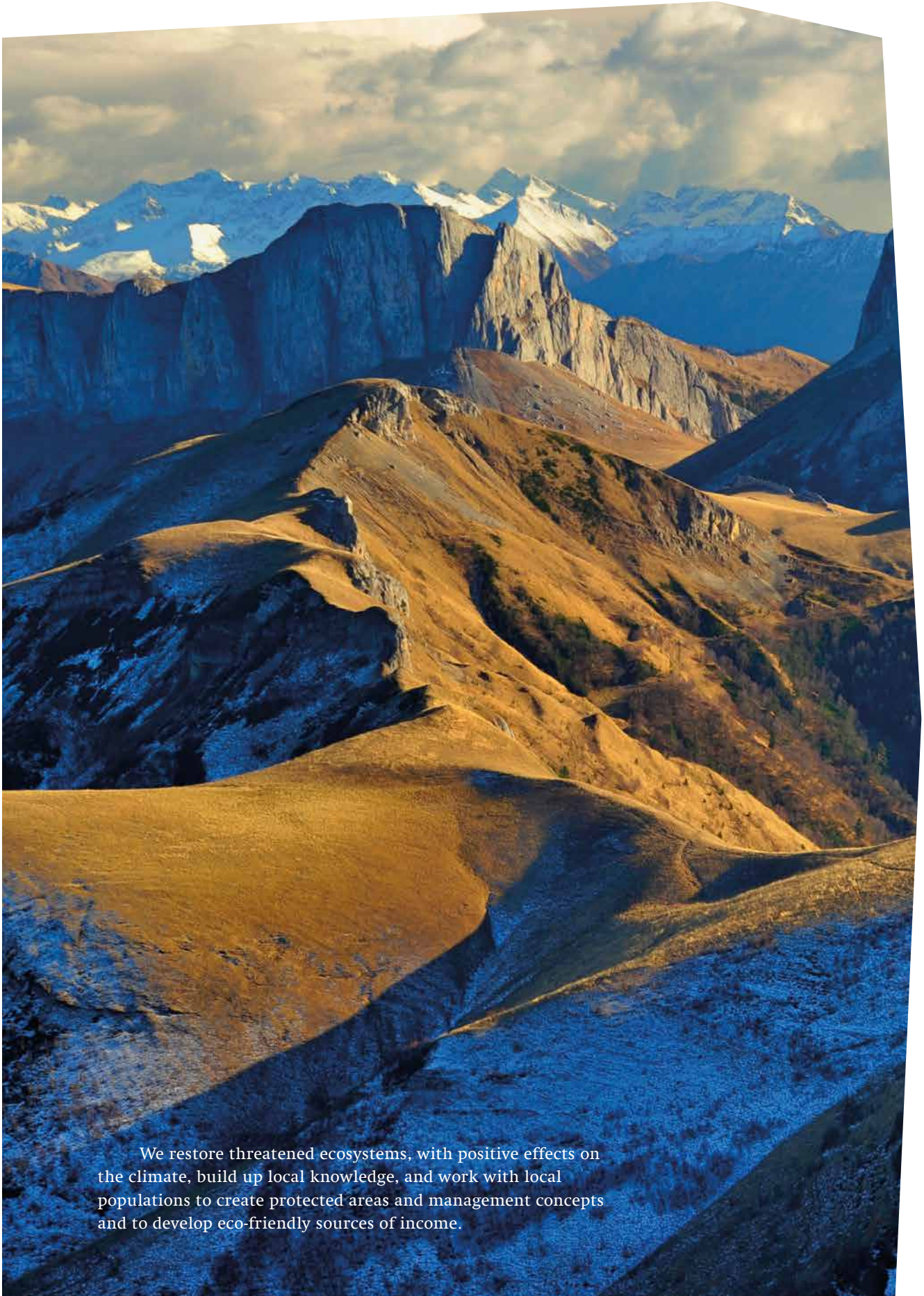
 **Our approach.** We take an integrative approach to our work, considering ecological, social and economic factors and working closely with civil society, governments, scientists and businesses.

We revive the climate-protective functions of healthy ecosystems by restoring threatened and damaged natural areas on a massive scale. We build up local knowledge, and work with local populations to create protected areas and management concepts and to develop eco-friendly sources of income.

We establish and promote local environmental NGOs (non-governmental organisations) and other civil society structures, and we actively include NABU volunteers in our international work.

We are part of the BirdLife International network and implement its goals in our work worldwide.

We use the expertise gained from our work in Germany to develop new approaches and concepts in the countries where we work.



We restore threatened ecosystems, with positive effects on the climate, build up local knowledge, and work with local populations to create protected areas and management concepts and to develop eco-friendly sources of income.

# GLOBAL CHALLENGES

3



Today, there is nothing that affects the state of our planet – and its future – more than the climate and biodiversity crisis. On the one hand, anthropogenic climate change is leading to an ecological, political and social crisis. On the other hand, our societies and economies are placing ever-greater demands on nature and increasing the pressure on biodiversity worldwide.<sup>4</sup> This has caused a massive decline in biodiversity: within the last 150 years, the earth has lost 83 % of its wild mammal biomass and over 40 % of its plant biomass.<sup>5</sup> One million species are in danger of extinction as a result of human activities.<sup>6</sup> Three quarters of the terrestrial environment and around two thirds of the oceans have already been substantially modified by human interventions.<sup>7</sup> We describe the climate and biodiversity crises as ‘gigatrends’.

### Precursors of future processes

We find ourselves in the geologic epoch of humanity – the Anthropocene. The world in the 21st century is subject to a complex system of changes and dynamics which can be described as (global) ‘megatrends’. These megatrends highlight tendencies within social change, playing out across all levels of human coexistence simultaneously, with increasingly strong reciprocal effects. These trends constitute the frame of reference for the development of our strategy and the focus of our international work over the next decade.

Today, economic and political dynamics have global effects. In recent years, we have seen growing changes in the roles of states and institutions. At the same time, we have experienced broad social movements that demand and foster change across national borders.

The term ‘globalisation’ will accompany us into the coming decades. It describes worldwide political, economic, cultural and ecological connections which interplay between individuals, societies, institutions and states.

<sup>4</sup> <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553579>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/115/25/6506.full.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> [https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/ipbes\\_7\\_10\\_add.1\\_en\\_1.pdf](https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/ipbes_7_10_add.1_en_1.pdf)

<sup>7</sup> <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.3553579>

This trend is enabled and accelerated by digitalisation. Data has become a resource that is traded all over the world, and increasingly shapes many people's lives, in very different ways. The mobility of people and goods will continue to grow, leading to higher greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbating the climate crisis.

### Dangerous prosperity

From a global perspective, many people are becoming more prosperous. However, the distribution of wealth remains uneven: at the end of 2020, 1.1 % of the world's population owned about 45.8 % of global wealth, while slightly more than half (around 55 %) of the world's population possessed only 1.3 % of global wealth.<sup>8</sup> Worldwide, the positive developments of declining child mortality and improving health systems are enabling people to grow older, leading to further population growth. On a global level, migration in and between countries and continents continues to rise: in 2019, there were nearly 272 million migrants worldwide.<sup>9</sup> The United Nations predicts that, despite a slowing in population growth, around 11 billion people will be living on Earth by 2100 (megatrend: demographic dynamics). 85 % of them will live in cities (megatrend: urbanisation).<sup>10</sup>

Value systems are also in flux. Societies with a collective ethos are increasingly influenced by cultures whose value systems are based on individualist principles. This has an impact on gender roles and on the way people want to live and work.<sup>11</sup> In recent decades, public perceptions of the relationship between humans and nature have changed. Awareness of nature, the environment and the climate has grown, and the willingness to take action for these causes has become a global movement. People who get involved locally are able to connect to other activists via national, continental and global networks.

The megatrends described here reflect current developments and, at the same time, serve as heralds and waymarkers for future societal transformations. This means that they present both important opportunities and substantial risks. Especially the megatrends of economic and political dynamics, globalisation, digitalisation, and wealth and distribution exert an all-encompassing impact on all levels of society. As a nature conservation organisation, we are concerned with the status of sustainability and environmental awareness in a world that is becoming more and more digital and globally connected. An examination of the opportunities and risks reveals various dynamics. Digitalisation has the potential to support a sustainable and eco-conscious lifestyle. It allows better monitoring of compliance with international agreements and goals. Digital structures can support equitable resource management, leading to a more equal distribution of wealth. Globalisation and digitalisation offer the chance to create an interconnected global community and a shared environmental awareness. If we see ourselves as one global human family, we feel a sense of community. This encourages support, cooperation, respect and mutual empathy. For example, the EAT-Lancet Commission has shown that a global food system would make it possible to provide healthy nutrition for the 10 billion people expected to live on Earth by 2050. In fact, such a system is essential if we are to produce food sustainably, within safe boundaries for our planet's ecosystems.<sup>12</sup>

### Respecting planetary boundaries

Artificial intelligence (AI) and synthetic biology have the potential to transform the natural and biological composition of living beings in unprecedented ways. A relationship between humans, nature and machines that is informed by ethical reflection will safeguard our biological constitution as humans in our natural environment. We can then take an active part in the protection of the planet and take our place in the ecosystem in harmony with nature and other living beings.

<sup>8</sup> <https://de.statista.com/statistik/daten/studie/384680/umfrage/verteilung-des-reichtums-auf-der-welt/>

<sup>9</sup> [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/InternationalMigration2019\\_Report.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/InternationalMigration2019_Report.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/The-Metropolitan-Century-Policy-Highlights%20.pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.zukunftsinstitut.de/dossier/megatrend-individualisierung>


<sup>12</sup> <https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet-commission/eat-lancet-commission-summary-report/>



Figure 1: Gigatrends and megatrends



The opposite of this is the anthropogenic striving for 'endless' growth – with no respect for planetary boundaries. Driven by purely economic interests, digitalisation can accelerate the output of emissions and the depletion of resources. If resources are not distributed fairly, wealth distribution remains uneven, reinforcing the existing concentration of power. From a socio-economic perspective, the introduction of digital structures across whole societies can be misused; it can restrict civil and human rights, reduce individual privacy, erode democratic structures and empower digital-financial autocracies. Inequality, elite rule, total surveillance and a loss of freedom then go hand in hand with the degradation and destruction of nature and the environment. If people are not encouraged to see themselves as part of a living planet, sharing it with others, they will perceive themselves as unconnected individuals.

 **In our Compass 2030, NABU stated:** 'We are confident that we can, collectively, achieve changes – in nature and species conservation, climate protection and sustainable management. At NABU, we will continue to face the challenges associated with this; we're committed to this goal and well equipped to pursue it. We are determined to find the best local and international solutions for the major environmental crises confronting us, taking a democratic, socially equitable path informed by knowledge and science.'<sup>13</sup>

We will focus our international work from now until 2030 on four challenges:

- **biodiversity crisis**
- **climate crisis**
- **environmental pollution, resource consumption & non-sustainable lifestyles**
- **degradation, modification & destruction of ecosystems**

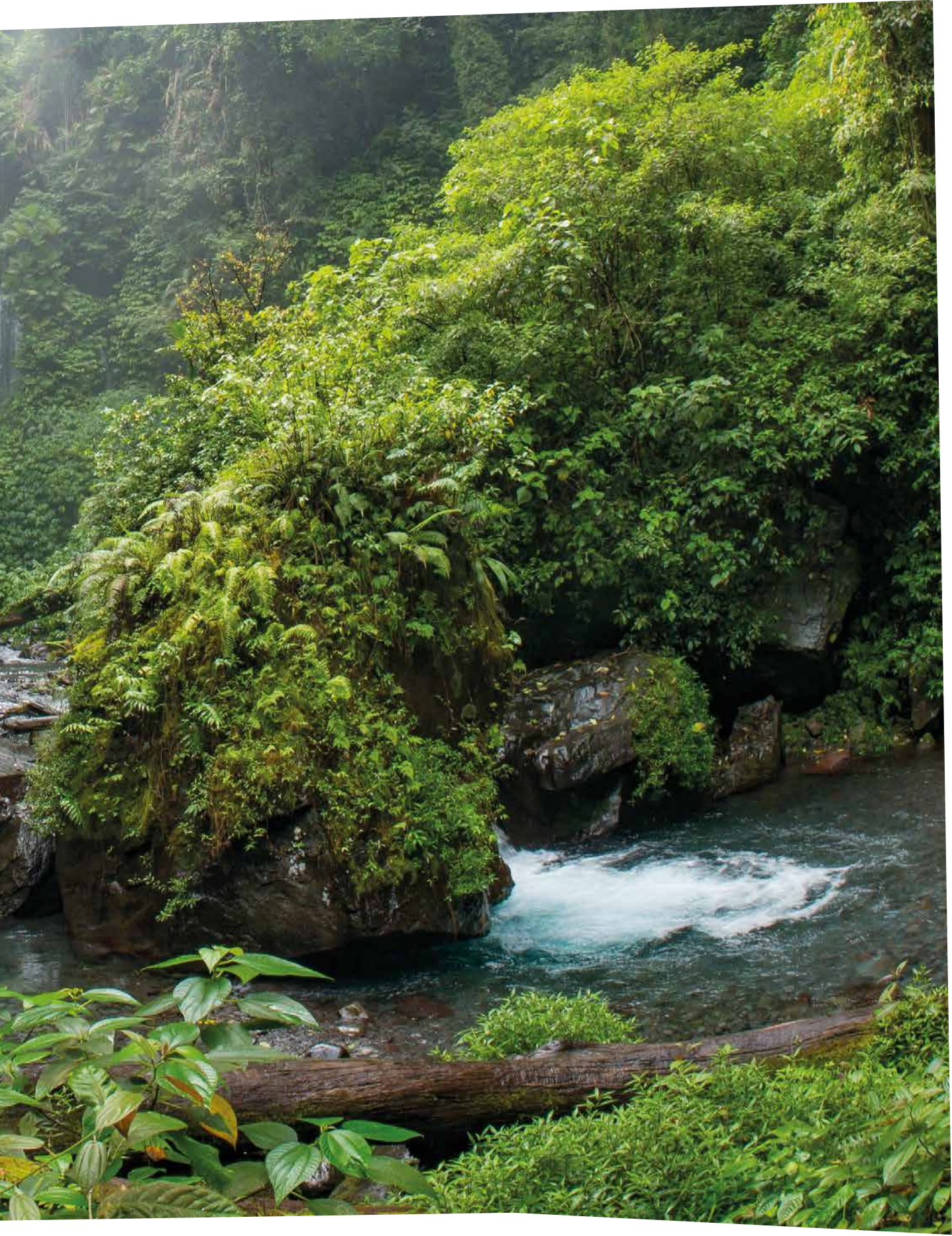
<sup>13</sup> [www.NABU.de/kompass](http://www.NABU.de/kompass)



Figure 2: Global challenges that are the focus of our international work

Biodiversity is declining rapidly: within the last 150 years, the earth has lost 83 % of its wild mammal biomass and over 40 % of its plant biomass. One million species are in danger of extinction as a result of human activities. Three quarters of the terrestrial environment and around two thirds of the oceans have already been substantially modified by human interventions.





# PRIORITIES

4



**W**e are what we do – also internationally. In the light of these guiding principles and the history of our organisation, we believe NABU has a responsibility to strategically develop its international involvement. And today, more than ever, local actions have global consequences. For around 30 years, NABU has been facing up to global challenges in nature and species conservation, and climate and environmental protection. During this time, we have gained a wide range of expertise in various regions of the world. In the last ten years there has been steady growth: NABU has built up a reputation as a reliable partner and an influential civil society actor, and has earned considerable respect for the work it has done.

#### We want

- to make a substantial contribution to the achievement of global conservation and climate goals with our projects and measures
- to respond to urgent challenges and crises with nature-based solutions and approaches
- to convince people in Germany and in our target countries of the enormous importance of international nature conservation
- to build up our international reputation and gain recognition among politicians and professionals as a respected and visible actor in international nature and species conservation, climate and environmental protection, and sustainable development.

Taking into consideration our current portfolio of issues and countries, our professional expertise and relevant partnerships, NABU has developed priorities for our international work up to 2030. The aim is to strategically empower our capacity to react to existing and foreseeable global crises and challenges.

Here we deliberately focus on specific issues rather than regions: the idea is that our strategic measures to implement our overarching priorities will be applied across diverse regions and will improve conditions in nearly every ecosystem. We always strive to take a holistic and integrative approach, focusing on durability and impact. Alongside specific measures for nature and species conservation and restoration, NABU always has an eye on the long-term improvement of conservation policy frameworks, and tries to take into account the socio-economic needs of local populations. Our measures are always tailored to the specific local situation.



Figure 3: Our international priorities

Priority 1	Protection & restoration of ecosystems	Protecting relevant habitats Safeguarding ecosystem services Restoration
Priority 2	Biodiversity and species conservation	Monitoring, protecting & managing threatened species Reducing human-wildlife conflicts Stopping the trade in threatened species Preventing the spread of invasive species
Priority 3	Sustainable, nature-friendly & climate-smart economy & lifestyle	Environmental education Sustainable economic development to fight poverty Promoting renewable energies Promoting nature-focused & organic land use & resource consumption
Priority 4	Strengthening civil society for nature conservation	Developing & empowering local environmental organisations Capacity development of local environmental organisations Joint nature conservation projects with NGOs in target countries
Priority 5	Climate protection, adaptation & mitigation	Reducing CO2 emissions Adapting to the impacts of climate change



**Priority 1: Protection and restoration of ecosystems.** The first of the five priorities for our international work is the ecosystem-based protection and restoration of natural regions. It is vital to preserve and protect complex, significant natural and cultural landscapes or ecosystems, along with their biodiversity, functions, material flows and services. Where necessary, we want to restore these landscapes and introduce sustainable, nature-friendly farming or (protective) management. This is our response to the degradation and destruction of ecosystems, the modification of terrestrial, freshwater, marine and coastal habitats, and the depletion of resources and species (figure 3).

Our work to preserve ecosystems focuses on existing protected areas, based on IUCN, UNESCO, EU and national criteria. When establishing new protected areas, we focus on global biodiversity hotspots and ecosystems (including those with a cultural overprint) that have particular significance for the protection of biodiversity, species and endemism (for example, *Important Bird Areas*, which are classified under global criteria as important for species and biotope protection, especially for birds, and *Key Biodiversity Areas*, which are of special importance for the protection of threatened species and habitats).

In extensive, populated areas we see UNESCO biosphere reserves as particularly suitable for the protection of natural regions, since the concept seeks to balance human use and the preservation of nature. In future we want to contribute significantly to the implementation of protected areas, to capacity-building for the management of these areas, and to the designation of new protected areas and the expansion of existing ones.<sup>14</sup>

We aim to implement this priority with the following measures:

- Restoration of damaged, disturbed and degraded ecosystems

To achieve this, we aim to assess and analyse disturbed ecosystems, then restore and strengthen them. This includes enrichment planting in disturbed areas of forest, the restoration of peatlands, and efforts to combat the causes of disturbance – such as erosion, overexploitation, or invasive species. We develop community-based plans for use and management, including zero-use zones, and we connect parts of ecosystems (for example, ecosystem or landscape restoration, the ‘stepping stone’ concept, biotope networks).

- Protection of relevant habitats (natural and cultural regions with a high degree of biodiversity or endemism)

We want to safeguard the functionality and efficacy of existing protected areas, for example by supporting effective management of these areas with capacity-building, organisational development, and the inclusion of local communities and user groups. We want to establish and support qualified teams of rangers, but also structures and infrastructure, such as the physical demarcation of protected zones or infrastructure for environmental education and recreation.

We also want to continue to advocate for the designation of new conservation areas, especially UNESCO biosphere reserves, UNESCO world natural heritage sites, local nature reserves and national parks. As well as promoting regional development, we support protected areas in their educational remit by providing environmental education, with local centres, exhibitions, and broad-based public relations work.

- Safeguarding ecosystem services when ecosystems are severely threatened in their functionality and/or productivity, e.g. water production, purifying functions, carbon sequestration, reproduction of species

We aim to achieve this by assessing disruptive factors and developing management plans, as well as strategically implementing improved management systems and restoring ecosystems. Here NABU focuses on forest ecosystems (reforestation/forest landscape restoration), wetlands/peatlands(restoration) and aquatic ecosystems such as complex catchment areas, lakes and marine habitats (coastal protection/erosion control; restoration of seagrass meadows, mangrove belts and coral reefs).



<sup>14</sup> See also NABU’s strategy for protected areas

## Priority 2: Biodiversity and species conservation.

In addition to the protection of a whole ecosystem, it is often necessary to take strategic measures for species conservation; this is therefore the second priority for our international work. This is our response to the global rise in species extinctions and its consequences for the life-preserving functions of the Earth.

This mainly entails measures to the protection of threatened species and their habitats, including biodiversity surveys, species surveys and monitoring. Our aims are:

- to gain well-founded knowledge about the numbers and the condition of species and populations
- to develop and implement targeted conservation programmes to safeguard and rehabilitate areas that are important for population ecology
- to reduce threats
- to understand and work to counteract anthropogenic challenges, such as the spread of invasive species or zoonotic diseases resulting from increasing contact between humans and wild animals (for example SARS-CoV-2 and the subsequent COVID-19 pandemic)
- to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, enabling humans and animals to coexist in a way that benefits both
- to foster an awareness of nature and species conservation among representatives of local communities, governments and other actors

When developing protection programmes and projects and assessing the threat status of species, we are guided by the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. However, other criteria also play a part, such as:

- an acute need for action because of a local/regional threat, although the species as a whole may only be of 'least concern' or 'near-threatened'
- the use of a species as an indicator species for the state of an ecosystem, and the need for monitoring and other measures
- the need to determine a 'flagship species' to represent an ecosystem conservation project

We aim to implement this priority with the following measures:

- Assessment, protection and management of threatened species (biodiversity)

To assess biodiversity, we rely on collaboration with local and international research institutions and relevant international NGOs. Conservation and management plans and species action plans can only be developed on the basis of surveys of species composition/biodiversity, regular monitoring (e.g. by rangers/wildlife wardens, community members or protected area staff) and the resulting knowledge about the state of populations. These plans are then

implemented with suitable local actors and authorities such as protected area administrators.

We also participate in negotiations for relevant biodiversity conventions, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

- Reducing human-wildlife conflicts

Here we mainly advocate (1) research and monitoring as the basis for the development of management measures; (2) prevention, such as livestock protection, migration corridors, or the adaptation of animal husbandry; (3) raising awareness among the local population and relevant decision-makers; (4) insurance systems, compensation and incentive programmes to mitigate economic losses; and (5) adaptive measures in land use, such as community-based grazing and wildlife management.

- Preventing the spread of invasive species

On the basis of existing scientific assessments, we want to develop plans and measures for prevention and management and implement these jointly with representatives of public authorities and communities. Here we also consider options for positive, profitable utilisation, since it is rarely possible to completely eliminate invasive species.

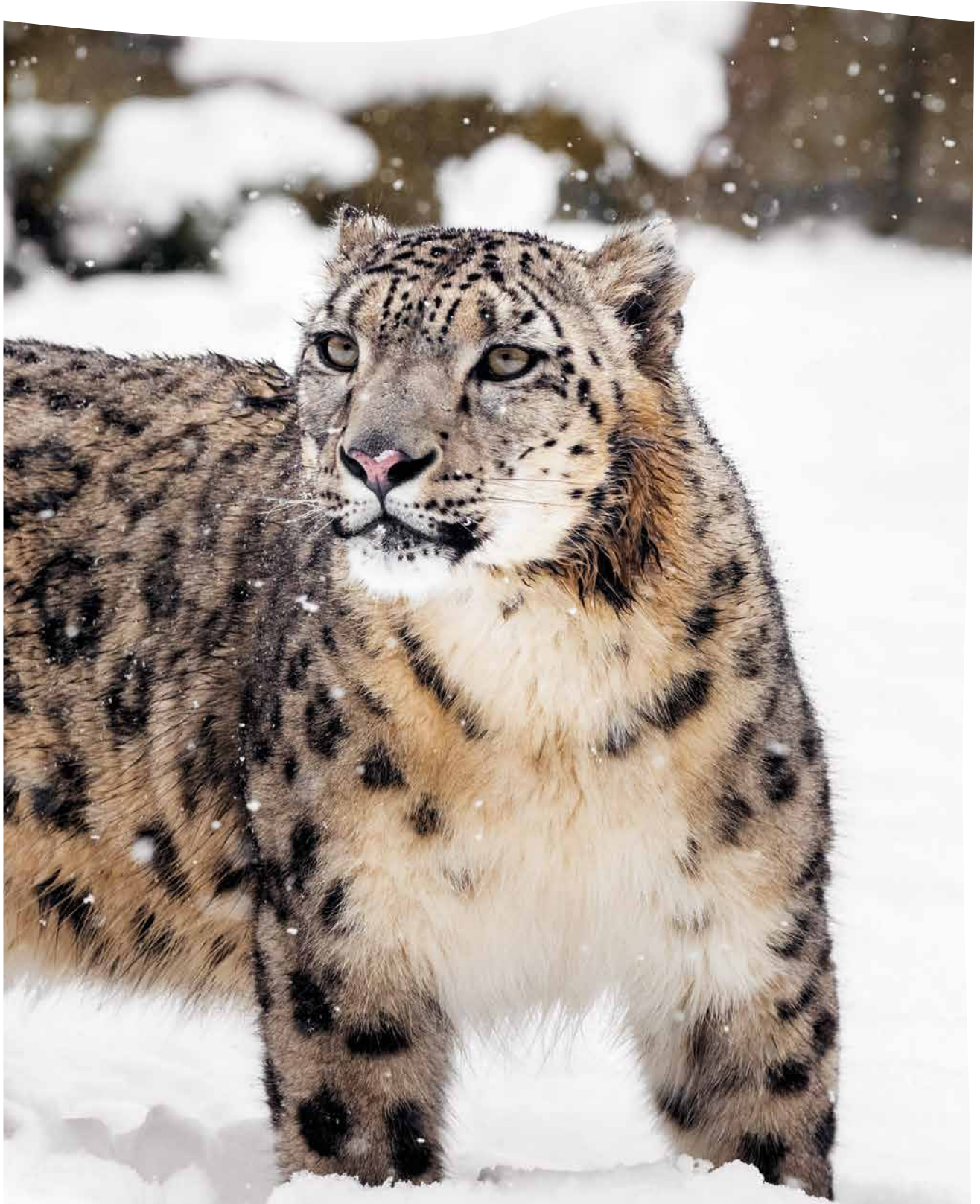
- Stopping the trade in threatened species

As well as supporting and implementing the Washington Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, (CITES), we focus on


(1) capacity-building within partner organisations and public authorities responsible for species protection, to take stronger action against poaching, illegal keeping and trade of wild flora and fauna; (2) strengthening relevant legislation; and (3) raising awareness to counteract the consumption and trading of threatened species and the consequences of these activities. "NABU advocates for the support of use cases which are beneficial to the preservation of the species and habitats in an ideal conservation status – strictly monitored, legal trade of a species or its products can positively influence the protection of that species."<sup>15</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Cf. 'NABU-Grundsatzprogramm Artenvielfalt'

(NABU's Manifesto on Species Diversity): [www.NABU.de/positionen](http://www.NABU.de/positionen)



We advocate the preservation of life-giving natural resources as the necessary basis for social and political justice, sustainable economies and healthy and diverse ecosystems in which humans and animals coexist.

 **Priority 3: Sustainable, nature-friendly and climate-smart economy and lifestyle.** The safeguarding and restoration of abiotic and biotic factors can only succeed if this is supported and not counteracted by global and local patterns of production and consumption. So it is vital to ensure that we have a sustainable, nature-friendly and climate-smart economy and lifestyle. This is the third overarching priority for our international work.

In a world with limited natural resources and constant population growth, we can't guarantee quality of life for all humans in the long term if we continue to waste resources and harm the environment with our behaviour as consumers and producers.

Only a lifestyle adapted to the resources that are available on our planet can ensure our survival. We need to harmonise ecology, the economy and social justice in all areas of life and economic activity – locally, nationally and internationally.

In our target countries, the majority of the rural population relies on small-scale farming. At the same time, (industrial) farming is regarded as one of the most important factors in the destruction and degradation of ecosystems, erosion, water pollution and carbon emissions. Every year, several million hectares of forest are lost to the expansion of agricultural land. In the last decade, the amount of rubbish produced worldwide has risen dramatically. Packaging waste in particular leads to serious problems, as our target countries often lack concepts of waste and recycling and the necessary infrastructure, including systems for managing hazardous waste.

Besides the regional rise in waste volumes, there is the phenomenon of waste exports. As a result, rubbish is often burnt or sent to landfill under poor or non-existent environmental standards. This has ecological consequences, in the form of emissions from waste incineration and the introduction of plastic and other pollutants into nature, waterways and ultimately the sea. Furthermore, the local population suffers when their air, soil and water are polluted.

We therefore advocate the preservation of life-giving natural resources as the necessary basis for social and political justice, sustainable economies, and healthy and diverse ecosystems in which humans and animals coexist (the 'One Health' approach). This is a response to various global challenges, such as the depletion of resources, environmental pollution and waste production, but also to the degradation and destruction of ecosystems and the climate and biodiversity crises.

We aim to implement this priority with the following measures:

- Raising awareness of nature and resource protection  
Environmental education and education for sustainable development remains a core theme of our member-based organisation – at home and abroad. Our main strategy to achieve this goal in our target countries is educational programmes in schools and universities, supported by suitable training materials and practical experiences in nature, delivered in collaboration with government agencies and communities. In order to reach as many target groups and age groups as possible, we use locally relevant media and channels of communication.
- Promoting nature-focused and organic land use and resource consumption

Our aim is to try to ensure that land use in developing countries has as little negative impact as possible on surrounding natural habitats, ecosystems and material flows. We therefore want to devote more energy to promoting deforestation-free agricultural supply chains. Our aim is to work with farmers' associations, businesses and other partners to promote sustainable and deforestation-free agriculture and build up monitoring systems for supply chains and natural areas.

We also want to support the sustainable and eco-friendly utilisation of aquatic and marine ecosystems, e.g. by area management, improvements to fishing and harvesting practices, and the avoidance of by-catch in coastal and small-scale fisheries. To achieve this, NABU works with experts to deliver education and capacity-building programmes on nature-focused land use and agriculture to smallholder farmers in the target countries. Besides practical training for those working in agriculture and fisheries and for other user groups, we provide theoretical training for government representatives, and set up 'best practice' farms offering exchange programmes for farmers.

- Sustainable economic development to reduce poverty

We want to promote sustainable development in our target countries by developing location-based concepts for alternative earning opportunities (e.g. marketing of green regional products, ecotourism, promotion of the circular economy or of new, green business opportunities, in collaboration with local communities, the administrations of protected areas and government agencies). This helps to reduce poverty and the resulting overexploitation of natural resources. NABU also cooperates with environmentally friendly companies, facilitates relationships between farmers and buyers, and helps farmers to meet certification standards.

- Promotion of renewable energies

Renewable energies can make a major contribution to reducing anthropogenic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions – together with energy savings and efficient energy use. However, the use of regenerative energy sources such as wind and hydropower, biomass,<sup>16</sup> and solar and geothermal energy also entails interventions in nature and the environment.

We therefore want to campaign – both in Germany and internationally – for a systematic but eco-friendly expansion of renewable energies. To achieve this, we advise governments and local authorities (e.g. on eco-friendly upgrades of their power grids); we promote local, location-based solutions, such as the use of natural waste products as regenerative energy sources; and we work with experts to develop ideas for energy saving and energy efficiency, for example through the use of energy-saving stoves/wood burners. We are, however, critical of the importing of hydrogen and biomass into Germany.



<sup>16</sup> Cf. NABU's background paper 'Verfügbare Biomasse im Einklang mit Natur- und Umweltschutz' (Available Biomass in Harmony with Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection): [www.NABU.de/positionen](http://www.NABU.de/positionen)

#### Priority 4: Strengthening civil society for nature conservation.

Nature conservation needs a lobby. So with priority 4 we want to strategically promote civil society in our project countries (and globally) and also strengthen NGOs. Worldwide, environmental and conservation NGOs play a crucial role in preserving habitats and species, fostering environmental awareness, influencing policymakers, and representing the interests of local communities and minorities. Open, democratic and rule-based societies are fundamentally the best prerequisites for effective protection and restoration of nature and the environment. NABU therefore promotes capacity-building and organisational development in local environmental organisations, to create a strong civil society in our target countries. We also implement joint nature conservation projects in the target regions, to expand the portfolios and knowledge base of the NGOs. As part of the worldwide BirdLife International network, we mainly support BirdLife partner organisations. At the same time, we support the BirdLife network and other alliances in their political work at EU level and in the context of international multilateral environmental agreements. We campaign at all levels for the interests of free civil society organisations and also raise this issue with state institutions.

This is our response to the increasing pressure being put on non-state actors in many countries of our target regions (as highlighted by the concept of the 'shrinking space' of civil society).

#### Priority 5: Climate protection, adaptation and mitigation.

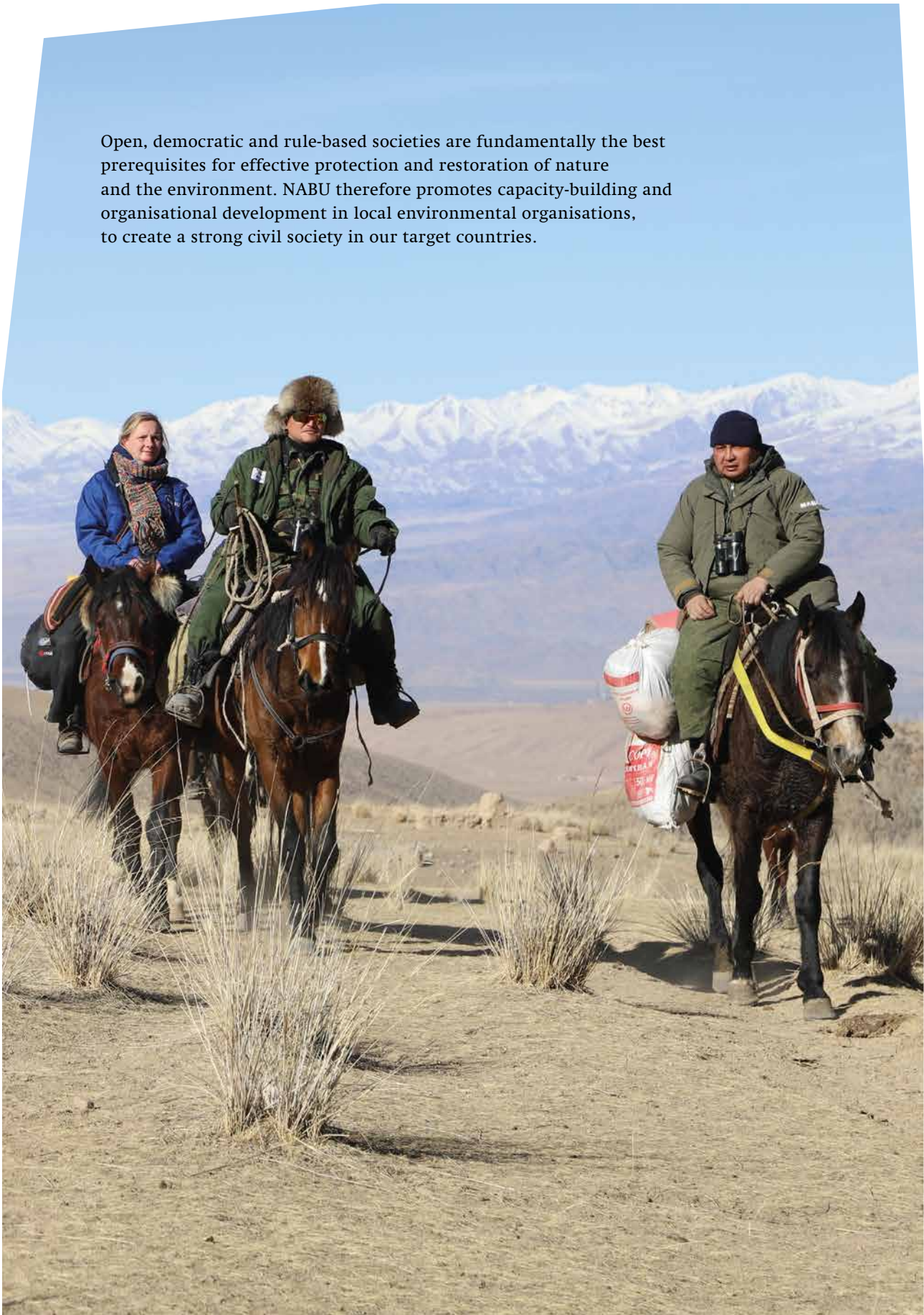
This urgent, overriding issue of climate protection constitutes the fifth overarching priority for our international work. Obviously, this has to be combined with nature conservation.

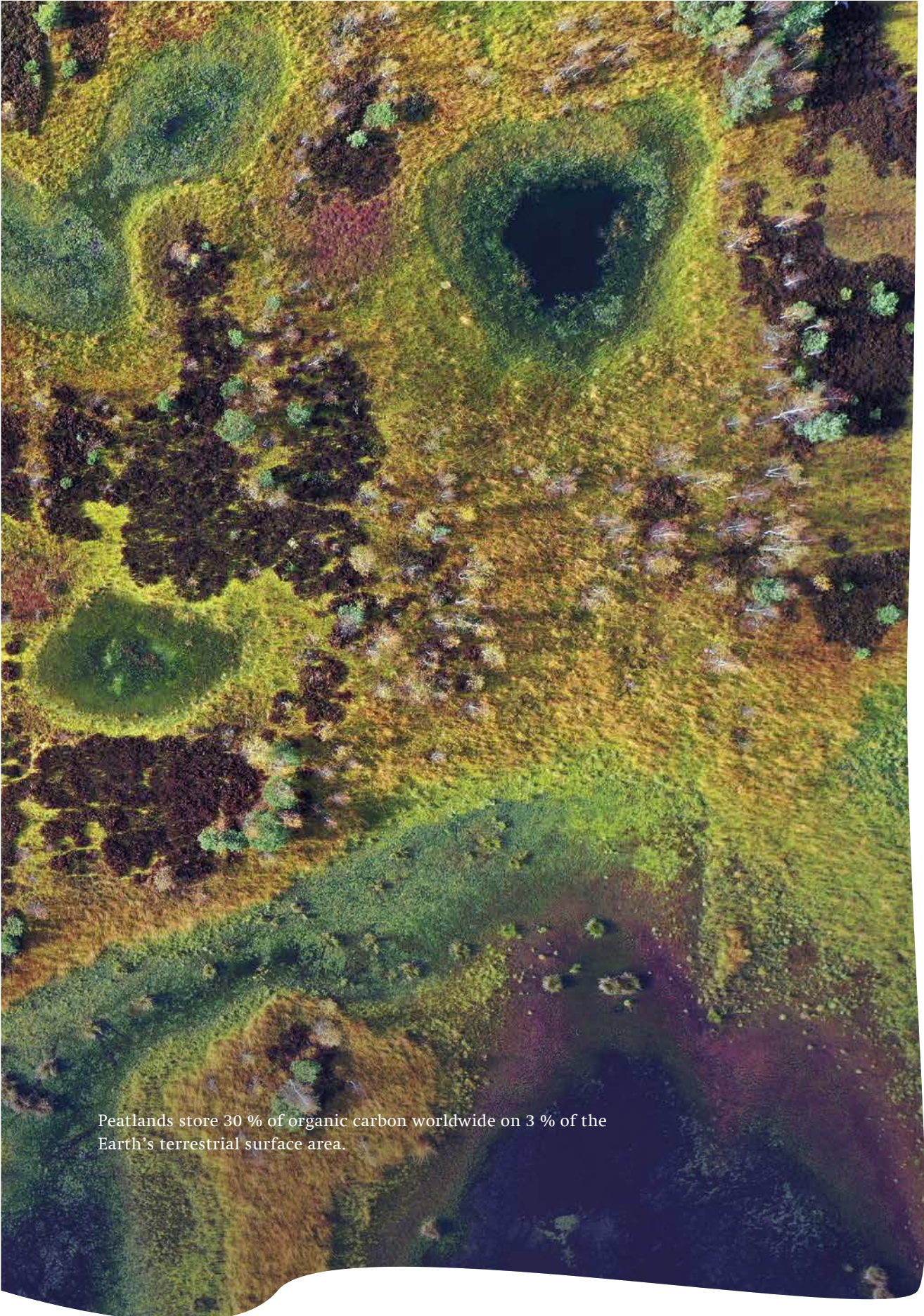
Carbon sinks, such as peatlands, oceans and forests, have an important function in the regulation of the global climate due to their ability to absorb and store carbon from the atmosphere. Peatlands actually store 30 % of organic carbon worldwide on just 3 % of the earth's terrestrial surface area.

Our most important climate protection goals therefore include: avoiding deforestation by means of sustainable forest management, reforestation measures, and the protection or restoration of peatlands and other natural carbon sinks.

The oceans and their coastal ecosystems, such as mangroves, sea grass meadows and salt meadows, are also among the most effective carbon sinks on our planet. Since 1970, they have absorbed up to a third of anthropogenic carbon dioxide emissions. Plankton organisms are especially important: they produce 50 % of the oxygen available on Earth.

Open, democratic and rule-based societies are fundamentally the best prerequisites for effective protection and restoration of nature and the environment. NABU therefore promotes capacity-building and organisational development in local environmental organisations, to create a strong civil society in our target countries.





Peatlands store 30 % of organic carbon worldwide on 3 % of the Earth's terrestrial surface area.

We therefore aim to reduce carbon emissions (mitigation) and strengthen the resilience of ecosystems). At the same time, we support adjustments in response to climate changes that are already apparent or can be expected to occur (adaptation). This applies particularly to smallholder farming, where possible measures include switching to climate-resilient methods (climate-smart agriculture) or preserving and promoting local, traditional crop varieties. This is crucial because climate change affects not only ecosystems, flora and fauna, but also agriculture, with devastating effects on smallholder farmers in particular. In many of NABU's target countries, such farmers are completely dependent on their crop yields and the natural resources of their environment. If harvests are poor or fail altogether, leading to a lack of seed for the following planting season; if pest infestations occur or the crop varieties used previously wither, then many people are forced to fall back on natural resources for survival, leading to severe overexploitation.

We aim to implement this priority with the following measures:

- Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, e.g. by preserving carbon sinks (mainly forests and peatlands), restoring them and boosting their resilience

NABU is committed to the development of nature conservation projects with positive effects on the climate. Based on our many years of expertise in Africa, Southeast Asia and the Baltic, we will expand our work in these regions. Our focus here is mainly on avoiding deforestation by improving forest structure and developing alternative fuels and sources of income, and on preserving and restoring ecosystem functions. Nature conservation projects not only serve to protect biodiversity, but also support the natural climate regulation of the ecosystem by preserving and restoring natural carbon sinks. In future, the plan is to scientifically quantify the positive climate impacts of our nature conservation projects.

- Adaptation to the effects of climate change

We see it as essential to work with farmers, fishing communities and other users, to develop and implement location-based concepts to adapt to the effects of climate change. Climate-smart agriculture, with climate-resilient products and forms of cultivation and management, is a particularly useful way to prepare smallholder farmers for the existing and foreseeable effects of climate change, and to adapt their work to these changes. In this way, we combat the progressive degradation of soils in mountain regions.



# PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

5



Partnerships are particularly important in the context of international work. Alliances allow more effective political and professional positioning and can strategically boost the implementation of NABU's goals. NABU has therefore collaborated with partners in Germany and abroad for many years, both bilaterally and in networks and coalitions. Professional local partners, but also supraregional partnerships, are essential prerequisites for achieving goals, especially when carrying out projects. It pays to invest long-term and cultivate partnerships. At the same time, partnerships offer the opportunity to pool financial resources, e.g. for high-volume projects, thus minimising burdens and risks for individual organisations. Political work in NGO coalitions or strategic partnerships with businesses have the potential to increase impact, while networks with strong local roots strengthen the credibility and sustainability of measures and projects. Collaboration with specialised, experienced partners, for example from academia or the consulting sector, closes knowledge gaps and builds NABU's capacity. Collaborations and partnerships are also crucial for the implementation of the SDGs, which cannot be met by a single organisation taking an individual approach.

Figure 4 presents high-priority partnerships for NABU's international work. Existing and future partnerships are grouped by areas and goals. Some partnerships can cover more than one category or goal.

### Prerequisites for a partnership

To fulfil our commitment to building successful partnerships, we orient ourselves by the following criteria:

- We build partnerships where there is a common interest, especially when it comes to overarching strategic goals and outcomes. We also look for partners with complementary skills.
- Our partnerships are based on the ethical principles of trust, openness, honesty, transparency, commitment and responsibility
- Our partnerships are equal: all partners have the skills, capacity and competencies to effectively negotiate agreements and to fulfil their roles and responsibilities within the partnership
- Goals, roles and responsibilities are established at the beginning of our partnerships; we ensure that there will be no conflict of interests within NABU.

Conversely, we exclude partnerships and collaborations if these entail an unmanageable financial or reputational risk, and we do not work with actors who:

- disregard human rights principles
- belong to or are close to a terror organisation or sect
- are regarded as corrupt (the abuse of entrusted power for private gain)
- are actively involved in military conflicts

Another prerequisite for collaboration is that businesses show a sincere commitment to meeting their ecological responsibilities and working towards social sustainability. NABU's aim in collaborating with businesses is to contribute to the transformation to a sustainable economy. This is one of the objectives set out in our statutes. Here NABU's main role is that of a driver of ecological change. This can be achieved by changes in the internal processes of the business itself (e.g. corporate strategy, procurement of raw materials, manufacturing processes, development of new products or services), by influencing consumer decision-making, or by joint contributions to the socio-political discourse to promote environmental protection and nature conservation. Collaborations with businesses can generate funds for nature conservation work and projects. This can take the form of logo licensing, fundraising campaigns, project funding, sponsorship, or paid consultancy services. Such collaborations also raise NABU's profile as a brand and a go-to address for nature conservation.

CATEGORY/ GOAL	FORM/TYPE OF PARTNERSHIP	EXAMPLES
<b>1</b> Political and/or professional positioning and influence  	Membership in supranational, non-state partnerships/networks	BirdLife International, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Climate Action Network, European Environmental Bureau, Global Peatland Initiative, Europarc, Eurosite
	State partners/governments in Germany and abroad/conventions	Germany: Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection (BMUV), German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN), German Environment Agency (UBA) In other countries: Ministries/government agencies, regional/local governments, embassies Supranational: EU Commission, Secretariat of the CBD, stakeholder networks of the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
	German/international partners in development cooperation	Germany Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), KfW Development Bank (KfW), Danish Agency for Development Cooperation (Danida), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), NGOs, foundations, Welthungerhilfe, Brot für die Welt, Diakonie, Deutsches Rotes Kreuz (German Red Cross)
	Multilateral/strategic professional partners	Committees, multi-actor partnerships (MAP), consortia, strategic alliances with organisations such as Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), African Parks or the German Biomass Research Centre (DBFZ)
	Religious organisations	Ethiopian Orthodox Church, Interreligious and Civil Environmental Forum of Eastern Europe (IRCEF)
<b>2</b> Implementation of projects/programmes in target countries	Implementing partners	BirdLife partners and other NGOs, foundations, academic partners
<b>3</b> Financial support, fundraising, promotion of green value chains	Sponsors	Ministries such as the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL), BMZ, BMUV, BfN, Federal Foreign Office, European Commission, foundations, private individuals, companies belonging to NABU's Business Initiative
	Business partners	Business Initiative, private companies, consultancies, media partners
<b>4</b> Promotion of civil society, capacity-building for nature conservation and environmental protection, other relevant topics	Civil society partners	NGOs, community-based organisations (CBOs), cooperatives, user associations
	Programmes, e.g. for capacity-building, exchanges	weltwärts, Voluntary Ecological Year (FÖJ), Global Learning and Education Network (GLEN), BirdLife partner-to-partner support, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
<b>5</b> Filling knowledge gaps, capacity-building	Partners from the research and education sector	Research facilities/institutes/universities, schools

Figure 4: High-priority partnerships for NABU's international work

### Global network: BirdLife International

BirdLife International is an especially important partner for us. With more than 115 partner NGOs and more than 10 million members and supporters worldwide, BirdLife International is the largest global network of nature conservation organisations. As BirdLife's German partner, we work with the Secretariat and with the national partner organisations in numerous countries.

It is in NABU's strategic interest to expand our work in and with the BirdLife network, helping to set its priorities and gradually assuming more responsibility.

#### Work on the level of the BirdLife network


- An active role in setting the agenda and priorities of BirdLife International
- Strategic coordination of NABU's thematic focus with BirdLife's priorities, if possible
- Support for the continuing professional development of the BirdLife Secretariat, especially in the areas of fundraising, member recruitment, business partnering, marketing, partner support, campaigning and lobbying
- Continuous, reliable participation in decision-making bodies: European Council, Global Council, working groups and taskforces
- Further expansion of involvement at EU level (representative office in the BirdLife office in Brussels, support for substantive work and campaigns on EU policy, support for European taskforces, joint project development) and of political work on relevant global conventions

#### Supporting national BirdLife partners.

Targeted support for BirdLife partners:

- Organisational and professional backing by means of training, exchanges and institutional support programmes; (including the appointment of Partner Development Officers (PDOs)) and in project partnerships
- Joint project development, fundraising (German and international donors) and implementation of best practice
- Strategic collaboration and development of the political clout of BirdLife partners, in order to achieve joint political goals on a global and EU level



 Political work at the level of the European Union (EU). At the intersection between national and international work, working with EU institutions becomes especially important.

In Germany, the majority of legislation pertaining to climate, nature and the environment is based on EU law. And a substantial proportion of the funding for nature conservation projects in Germany and worldwide comes from the EU budget or the budgets of EU member states. Communitised policy areas, such as trade policy, rules on subsidies, or the common agricultural and fisheries policies, are of fundamental significance for biodiversity and climate worldwide and in Germany.

Major advances for nature conservation have been achieved through complaints to the EU Commission. Examples are the recognition of BirdLife International's 'Important Bird Areas' as a reference list for EU bird sanctuaries; the condemnation of Germany for its insufficient implementation of European regulations for fertiliser use; and the establishment of regulations for the hunting of endangered migratory birds.

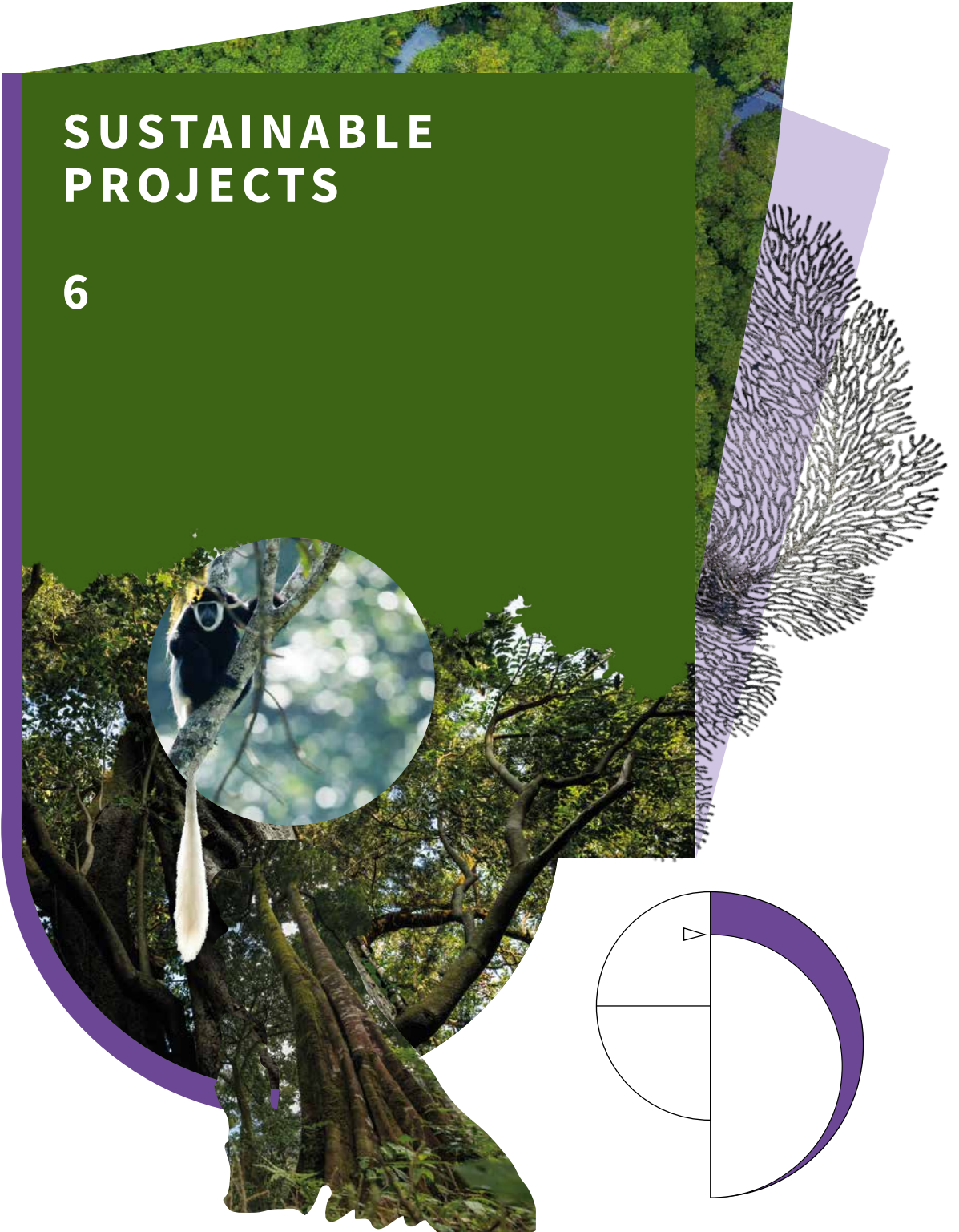
NABU and its European partners develop coordinated strategies, positions and campaigns, working closely with BirdLife Europe and Central Asia and other networks, such as the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), Transport & Environment Europe (T&E) and the Climate Action Network (CAN). The shared goal of NABU's Brussels office, the Secretariat of BirdLife Europe and Central Asia, and further BirdLife partners in the EU is to further build capacity in order to increase our political influence on the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council.



Worldwide, more than 115 national conservation organisations from almost as many countries on every continent have united under the umbrella of BirdLife International to increase their influence and effectiveness.

# SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

6



Sustainability is one of the key normative concepts of the 21st century. It represents the goal of preserving our earth permanently as the basis for our survival, while bearing in mind the associated local and global challenges of the present. At NABU, we follow the definition of the United Nations<sup>17</sup>: ‘sustainable development’ is development that meets the needs of the present (intragenerational justice) without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (intergenerational justice). In so doing, we recognise that functioning ecosystems form the basis for human social and economic development.

Likewise in our international work, we understand sustainability as a holistic, integrated model, in which the different levels are interwoven and harmonised. Wherever possible, the guidelines that NABU has set itself in Germany (e.g. environmental guidelines) are also applied in our international target regions. The following figure (5) shows the many aspects that we have to consider in our practical work.

This illustration makes it clear that planetary boundaries set absolute limits on both societies and the economy. Without intact ecosystems, we can neither feed the world sustainably nor stop climate change or the rapid loss of biodiversity.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>





Figure 5: The seven guiding Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for our international work

## SDGs as the guidelines of our work

The objectives of our international work are based on specific standards established at the highest level: the sustainable development goals (SDGs) formulated in the UN's Agenda 2030.<sup>18</sup>

Although the SDGs are indivisible and should always be considered jointly, our strength lies in dealing with those SDGs that focus on ecological aspects, which – we believe – have not received enough attention globally.

Of the seventeen SDGs, the following seven therefore have a particularly strong influence on our international work:

**Goal 2: Zero hunger**

**Goal 4: Quality education**

**Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy**

**Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production**

**Goal 13: Climate action**

**Goal 14: Life below water**


**Goal 15: Life on land**


The systematic integration of sustainability goals into our organisational structure thus forms a clearly defined framework for sustainable action within NABU.

Our international activities are also aligned with comprehensive Environmental and Social Standards (ESS), compliance with which is now mandatory as part of international work financed by institutional funding entities.

## Guidelines to ensure the effectiveness of our work

To achieve our aspirations and ensure that our work has stable foundations, we rely on the following instruments:


 **Long-term support for partners and local empowerment.** We support local civil-society partners, especially BirdLife partners, to improve nature and resource conservation and climate protection in the target regions. We do this by building lasting partnerships on an equal footing. We strengthen our local target groups by boosting knowledge, organising exchanges for direct learning, and sharing tried and tested concepts, such as our hands-on approach to nature conservation in an international context.

 **Building up structures that are stable and self-sustaining in the long term.** Our aim is to build up capacity, self-sustaining structures and strong civil society partners, so that projects, concepts and structures will survive and thrive after the end of our involvement on the ground. This also means helping our partners to access long-term sources of funding.


To pursue goals independently in the long term, they need to secure not just project funding but stable income from different sources. We also want to make sure that national and international financial frameworks offer structural support to our international work and help us to achieve our sustainability goals. This will boost the long-term impact of our work for nature conservation.


In the long term, we want local actors to be able to continue our work – for ecosystem restoration, species conservation, and the development of protected areas or community-based resource management – without any further input.

<sup>18</sup> See [www.en.NABU.de/about/sdgs.html](http://www.en.NABU.de/about/sdgs.html)

 **Long-term safeguarding of conservation funding and local earning opportunities.** Ensuring the long-term funding of nature conservation is crucial for us, both in Germany and internationally. Continuous and adequate funding for protected areas is essential for the effective protection of sensitive ecosystems and biodiversity. NABU offers businesses opportunities to make long-term investments in nature conservation projects with positive climate impacts through various forms of funds, for example the NABU fund for peatland protection and restoration or the NABU Climate Fund. In cooperating with corporations, NABU sees the chance to support the development of resource and ecosystem-friendly, sustainable business models and by so doing reduce poverty as a driving cause for the destruction of nature. We advocate for financial regulations that will require business models to integrate ambitious, science-based sustainability goals and avoid harming nature and the climate.


### Our methods, principles and approaches

 **Participatory approaches.** Participation by target groups is regarded as a key criterion for long-term success in nature and resource conservation, climate protection and environmentally friendly regional development. We aim to promote community-based participation, particularly when it comes to introducing new structures of conservation and utilisation for a specific local population (for example, protected areas, forest or wetland management, community-based wildlife management).


 **A holistic and integrative approach.** When carrying out our work in our target countries, we aim to take a holistic, integrative approach to the often complex situations on the ground. This means, for example, considering not just one section of a habitat, but the whole region with its material flows, characteristics and challenges. In each case, we therefore consider not only aspects of nature conservation or species protection, but also the specific situation of the local population. We then take measures to involve them and to improve their living conditions.


When planning a project, we always have the end of the project in mind. Our involvement is only the start: our aim is to ensure that nature conservation, civil society and sustainable development will continue after the end of a project.





 **Creating ownership.** Ownership by local actors is essential for the sustainability of our international work. We are convinced that our work can only have lasting success if our partners on the ground regard all projects, programmes and plans as their own and are closely involved in the planning, execution and evaluation. Even in the planning phase, we try to decentralise administrative structures, integrate actors from different levels, and spread the responsibility for planning and execution among multiple actors.

 **Capacity development.** We want to help people in our target countries to acquire the technical knowledge, skills and management competencies they need to build up structures themselves and preserve nature and the environment in the long term. This enables them to shape their own development and create and test their own strategies and solutions – enhancing their ability to deal with future challenges.

 **Free, prior and informed consent.** Our work has a direct impact on people in our target countries. We are therefore obliged to inform local actors and gain their consent before undertaking any action. This fosters responsibility and initiative among those involved and strengthens ownership in a lasting way.

 **Examples of good practices.** Our work has a direct impact on people in our target countries. We are therefore obliged to inform local actors and gain their consent before undertaking any action. This fosters responsibility and initiative among those involved and strengthens ownership in a lasting way.

 **Transparency / Good Governance.** Transparency and good governance are important prerequisites for our international work – not only with regard to sustainability. Our work is dependent on third-party funding, donations and sponsorships. We therefore rely on transparent communication and collaboration with our partners and donors. These are vital prerequisites for credibility and trust.

 **Exit strategy.** Our overarching goal for our international work is to create self-sustaining and autonomous structures for nature and resource conservation, climate protection, sustainable development and a strong civil society. Suitable exit strategies play a key role here. When planning a project, we always have the end of the project in mind. Our involvement is only the start: our aim is to ensure that nature conservation, civil society and sustainable development will continue after the end of a project.

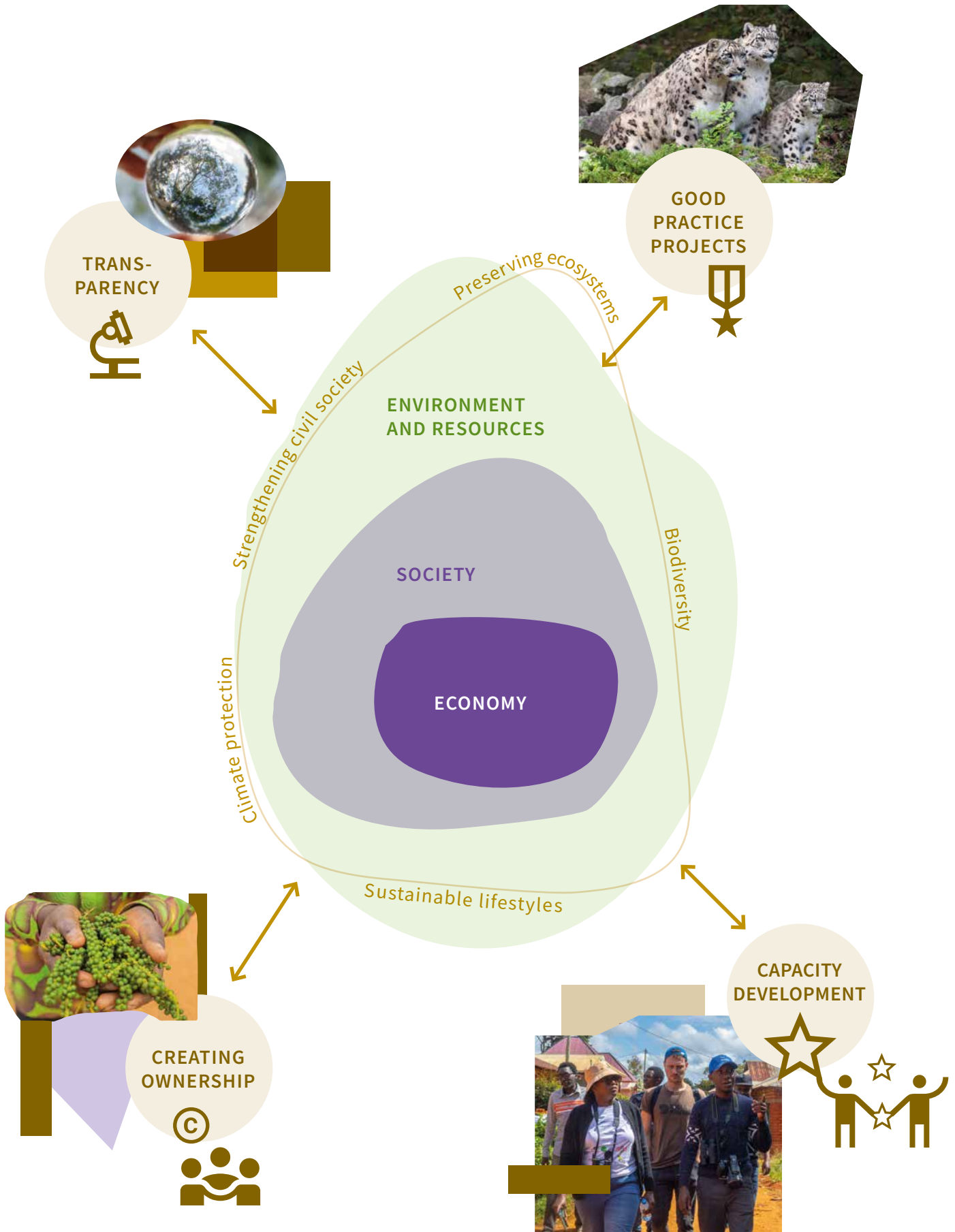


Figure 6: Our guiding principles:  
An integrative model of sustainability for our international work



# G

Glossary



## Adaption

In human systems, the process of adapting to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human interventions may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15\\_glossary.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15_glossary.pdf) (12 July 2022)

## Anthropocene

First used by scientists in 2000, the term Anthropocene [anthropos = human; kainos = new] describes a new geological age, which could potentially follow the Holocene, and which includes our present time. Modern humans, as a result of their technological innovations and the medium- and long-term effects of these innovations on the environment and climate, are viewed as a planetary force, whose radical impact on the Earth system is comparable to the last Ice Age.<sup>1</sup>

Humankind has played a fundamental role in shaping the global ecosystem since the Industrial Revolution at least – as seen in urbanisation, resource scarcity, the extinction of species, ocean acidification and soil erosion. The impact of humans on the environment affects the whole planet and is interwoven with all the Earth's processes.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung, *Glossar* (<https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/umwelt/anthropozoen/216925/das-woerterbuch-zum-anthropozoen>) (23 June 2022)

<sup>2</sup> Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (<https://www.bpb.de/gesellschaft/umwelt/anthropozoen/>) (23 June 2022)

## Aquatic ecosystems

The term 'aquatic ecosystem' generally refers to all ecosystems that are clearly structured by water. However, marine ecosystems and the hydro-ecosystems of inland waters – e.g. rivers and lakes – are considered separately. Their spatial separation means that they have to be considered as autonomous ecosystems with a specific mass balance and a specific biota.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/geowissenschaften/aquatische-oekosys-teme/847>) (23 June 2022)

## Artificial intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is an area of computer science which investigates and simulates the mechanisms of intelligent human behaviour, usually by means of computer programmes.

The term 'artificial intelligence' was coined by the American computer scientist John McCarthy (\*1927). He used it in the title of a project application for a multi-week conference that took place in Dartmouth College in the USA in 1956. At this event, scientists presented programmes that played chess and draughts, proved theorems and interpreted texts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/neurowissenschaft/kuenstliche-intelligenz/6810>) (23 June 2022)



## Biodiversity

Biodiversity describes the diversity of living organisms at three different levels of organisation:

1) genetic variability within a species, 2) variety across different species (species diversity) and 3) the diversity of ecosystems.<sup>1</sup> Biodiversity is defined as ‘the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems’ (Convention on Biological Diversity, Art. 2).

<sup>1</sup> *Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg*  
(<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/biologie/biodiversitaet/8597>) (23 June 2022)

## Biodiversity crisis

The biodiversity crisis refers to the global decline in natural/nature-focused ecosystems and their biological diversity. A major factor in this crisis is humans, who a) have transformed large parts of the Earth’s natural forest and grassland cover into farmland, b) intervene massively in the earth’s soil structure, often causing large-scale, irreversible soil losses due to erosion, c) have seriously disrupted natural global biogeochemical cycles, particularly of nitrogen, phosphorous and carbon, d) introduce 300 to 400 million tonnes of pesticides, other agricultural chemicals and other bioactive chemicals into the environment every year, and e) are causing climate change (global warming, ocean acidification).

Around 25 % of the earth’s ice-free land surface is considered to be severely degraded in its productivity and integrity as a result of human interventions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Nationale Akademie der Wissenschaften Leopoldina (ed.) 2020: Globale Biodiversität in der Krise – Was können Deutschland und die EU dagegen tun? Diskussion Nr. 24, Halle (Saale). PDF* (22 June 2022)

## BirdLife network

BirdLife International is a global partnership of nature conservation organisations, which is committed to the protection of birds, their habitats, and worldwide biological diversity, and works with people towards sustainable use of natural resources. Worldwide there are over 115 BirdLife partners – one per country or area.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *BirdLife International*  
(<https://www.birdlife.org/who-we-are/https://www.birdlife.org/worldwide/partnership/about-bird-life>) (30 June 2022)

## Capacity-building

Capacity-building is defined as ‘the process of developing and strengthening the skills, instincts, abilities, processes and resources that organisations and communities need to survive, adapt, and thrive in a fast-changing world. An essential ingredient in capacity-building is transformation that is generated and sustained over time from within; transformation of this kind goes beyond performing tasks to changing mindsets and attitudes.’<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *United Nations*  
(<https://www.un.org/en/academic-impact/capacity-building>) (23 June 2022)

## Carbon sink (CO<sub>2</sub> sink)

Carbon sinks are ecosystems that permanently absorb or store CO<sub>2</sub>, such as peatlands, soils, forests and oceans. Generally speaking, every ecosystem that absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> than it releases is referred to as a carbon sink.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.carbon-connect.ch/de/services/glossar/glossar-list/20/>

## Circular economy

The circular economy is a model of production and consumption in which existing materials and products are shared, leased, reused, repaired, refurbished and recycled for as long as possible. This extends the life cycle of products.

In practice, this means reducing waste to a minimum. When a product reaches the end of its life, its materials are kept within the economy wherever possible thanks to recycling. These can be productively used again and again to generate added value.

The circular economy differs radically from the traditional, linear economic model (the 'throwaway' economy). This model relies on large quantities of cheap, easily accessible materials and energy.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *European Parliament*  
(<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/headlines/economy/20151201STO05603/circular-economy-definition-importance-and-benefits>) (23 June 2022)

## Civil society

Worldwide, environmental non-governmental organisations play a crucial role in preserving unique habitats and protecting threatened species, fostering environmental awareness and lobbying for ecosystem services, by representing the interests of local communities and minorities.

## Climate

Climate in a narrow sense is defined as the average weather over a long period of time – or, more rigorously, the statistical description in terms of the mean and variability of relevant quantities over a period of time ranging from months to thousands or millions of years. The classic period for averaging these variables is 30 years, as defined by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The relevant quantities are most often surface variables such as temperature, precipitation and wind. Climate in a wider sense is the state of the climate system, including a statistical description.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary*  
(<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Climate change

A change in the state of the climate that can be identified (e.g. by statistical tests) by changes in the mean and/or variability of climate properties and that persists for an extended period, typically decades or longer. Climate change may be due to natural internal processes, or to external influences such as modulations of the solar cycles, volcanic eruptions, and persistent anthropogenic changes in the composition of the atmosphere or in land use. It should be noted that the first article of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) defines climate change as 'a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods'.<sup>1</sup> The UNFCCC thus makes a distinction between climate change attributable to human activities altering the atmospheric composition and climate variability attributable to natural causes.

<sup>1</sup> *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary*  
(<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Climate compensation

Climate compensation (carbon offsetting) is an instrument of climate protection, in which greenhouse gas emissions can be compensated for by reducing emissions elsewhere or storing CO<sub>2</sub> (with forests or reforestation). The net greenhouse gas emissions remain the same. In practice, climate compensation allows unavoidable greenhouse gas emissions to be balanced by financing climate protection projects elsewhere. It makes no difference to the atmosphere where CO<sub>2</sub> is emitted and where emissions are reduced.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Carbon-Connect AG*  
(<https://www.carbon-connect.ch/index.cfm/en/services/glossar/>)  
(23 June 2022)

### Climate crisis

The term climate crisis describes the ecological, political and social crisis caused by anthropogenic climate change, which will end in disaster unless there is a massive change in direction. Often this is used as an overarching term for the ‘wholesale destruction of the foundations of survival for the human species – biodiversity, nitrogen cycle, ocean acidification, water supply’.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Handbuch-Klimakrise*  
(<https://handbuch-klimakrise.de/glossar/>) (23 June 2022)

### Climate protection

Climate protection refers to all measures aimed at limiting global warming. This mainly means measures to reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *BMU (2013), Energiewende A-Z*  
(<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/service/glossary/k>)  
(23 June 2022)

### Climate resilience

Climate resilience describes the capacity of social and ecological systems, in the face of climate change, to react to changes in various sectors and on various spatial scales. For us, resilience encompasses the following aspects:

- persistence – the capacity of systems to resist and absorb short-term shocks without exceeding important thresholds;
- adaptability – the capacity to regenerate and adapt to changing external influences, while remaining on an existing development pathway;
- transformability – the capacity to exceed thresholds where necessary and to take new, robust development pathways.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Potsdam-Institut für Klimafolgenforschung (PIK) e. V.*  
(<https://www.pik-potsdam.de/de/institut/abteilungen/klimaresilienz/>) (23 June 2022)

### Climate-smart agriculture (CSA)

Climate-smart agriculture is an approach that helps to take the necessary measures for a restructuring and reorientation of agricultural systems, in order to effectively support sustainable development and ensure food security in a changing climate. CSA has three main aims: 1) to sustainably increase agricultural productivity and incomes, 2) to adapt to climate change and build resilience, and 3) to reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions where possible.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *FAO*  
(<http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/>)  
(23 June 2022)

### Coastal protection

Coastal protection includes all the measures serving to protect coasts from the destructive effects of the sea (e.g. storm surges). Coastal protection serves to protect the lives and property of the population, to protect industrial facilities, and to prevent land losses from coastal recession and erosion. A distinction is made between active coastal protection, e.g. with beach replenishment (foreshore reclamation), and passive coastal protection to reduce coastal recession. This mainly involves technical measures such as the construction of dykes, groynes, and revetments, but also bioengineering (the stabilisation of soil structure by establishing vegetation). Storm surge forecasts are used to warn the population of imminent storm surges.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg*  
(<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/geowissenschaften/kuestenschutz/9059>) (23 June 2022)

### Coexistence (humans and animals)

‘Human-wildlife conflict’ refers to conflicts that arise when wild animals constitute a real or perceived threat to the interests or needs of humans. This often leads to disagreements between groups of people and has negative impacts on people and/or wildlife. ‘Human-wildlife coexistence describes a dynamic state in which the interests and needs of both humans and wildlife are generally met, though this coexistence may still contain some level of impact to both, and is characterised by a level of tolerance on the human side.’<sup>1</sup> The term ‘coexistence’ has its origins in ecology, and refers to the survival of two interacting species in the same habitat.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WWF, UNEP, *The Need for Human-Wildlife Coexistence* ([https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/a\\_future\\_for\\_all\\_the\\_need\\_for\\_human\\_wildlife\\_coexistence.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/a_future_for_all_the_need_for_human_wildlife_coexistence.pdf)) (23 June 2022)

<sup>2</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/geowissenschaften/koexistenz/8522>) (23 June 2022)

### Cultural landscape

Cultural landscapes are formed by human use and management in conjunction with the properties of a given natural environment.<sup>1</sup> Cultural landscapes are therefore defined by cultivated nature, in which characteristic forms of maintenance and use take place annually. These traditionally include mowing meadows, rotating livestock, irrigation and drainage, hedge trimming and (longer-term) silviculture.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Landesamt für Landwirtschaft und Ländlichen Raum – Freistaat Thüringen (<https://tllr.thueringen.de/landwirtschaft/agraroekologie/kultur>) (23 June 2022)

<sup>2</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/geographie/kulturlandschaft/4463>) (23 June 2022)

### Deforestation

Conversion of forested landscapes into non-forest landscapes.<sup>1</sup> Often deforestation is carried out because of human economic interests, e.g. to gain pastureland or farmland.

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, *Glossary* (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

### Degradation

A long-term reduction in an ecosystem’s structure, functionality, or capacity to provide benefits to people.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://ipbes.net/glossary/ecosystem-degradation> (12 July 2022)

### Digitalisation

On a technological level, the concept of digitalisation describes two developments: the process that converts information into machine-readable data and stores it, and the processing, transmission and combination of data. Beyond the technological level, digitalisation also has a social level: it describes far-reaching changes in the interactions between people in communication, media and the public sphere, society, culture and education, infrastructure and the environment, the economy and work. Digitalisation also refers to changes related to health and illness (including treatment), and crime, security and freedom.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (<https://www.bpb.de/izpb/digitalisierung-344/318096/einfuehrung-und-ueberblick-was-bedeutet-digitalisierung>) (23 June 2022)

### Ecosystem

An ecosystem is a functional unit consisting of living organisms, their non-living environment, and the interactions within and between them. The components of an existing ecosystem and its spatial boundaries depend on the purpose for which the ecosystem has been defined: in some cases they are relatively sharply defined, in others diffuse. The boundaries of ecosystems can change over time. Ecosystems are nested within other ecosystems, and their scale can range from very small to the entire biosphere. In the current era, most ecosystems either contain humans as key organisms or are impacted by the effects of human activities in their environment.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, *Glossary* (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Ecosystem services

Ecological processes or functions that have a monetary or non-monetary value to individuals or society at large. These are often divided into the following categories: (1) supporting services such as productivity or biodiversity maintenance; (2) provisioning services such as food or fibre; (3) regulating services such as climate regulation or carbon sequestration; and (4) cultural services such as tourism or spiritual and aesthetic appreciation.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Endemism, endemic species

Plants and animals that are only found in one geographic region.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Energy transition (German: Energiewende)

The energy transition aims to supply society and the economy with energy, such as electricity and heat, from sustainable, renewable or regenerative sources. It aims to reduce the proportion of energy – in Germany and worldwide – that is produced by nuclear power and fossil fuels (such as oil, natural gas and coal), in favour of renewable energies. Renewable energies include wind and water power (e.g. wind turbines, wave and tidal energy from the sea), geothermal and solar energy, and also energy from renewable natural resources or biomass (e.g. energy from wood, vegetable oil, biogas). The energy transition relies on an increase in energy efficiency, a reduction in energy consumption, and the expansion of renewable energies to meet demand.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Grundlagenwissen für Schule und Studium, Beruf und Alltag. 6th edn. Mannheim: Bibliographisches Institut 2016. Edition published under licence Bonn: Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung 2016. (<https://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/lexika/lexikon-der-wirtschaft/159947/energiewende>) (23 June 2022)

## Environmental protection

See nature conservation

## Erosion

Erosion occurs when water and wind wash away or blow away the soil matrix. This is a natural process. However, we use our soils intensively and often misuse them – and this hugely accelerates erosion. Climate change also exacerbates erosion with heavy rainfall and dry summers. Soil formation is a slow process. In contrast, erosion happens very quickly and permanently destroys the soil – a limited resource – and its functions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt 2021 ([https://www.lfu.bayern.de/boden/was\\_gefaehrdet\\_boeden/erosion/index.htm](https://www.lfu.bayern.de/boden/was_gefaehrdet_boeden/erosion/index.htm)) (23 June 2022)

## Flagship species

In nature conservation, a ‘flagship species’ is one that is popular with the public and can be used to secure extensive protective measures for habitats and for other species.<sup>1</sup> One example is the stork, which graces NABU’s logo.

<sup>1</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/biologie/flagship-species/24743>) (23 June 2022)

## Forest ecosystems

Forest is an interconnected social structure and complex of interactions between its mutually influencing and often interdependent biological, physical and chemical components, extending from the uppermost treetop to the outermost root tips. A key characteristic is the competition-driven predominance of trees; a specific climate develops within the forest which differs substantially from that outside the forest. This can only develop if the trees reach a minimum height and density and cover a minimum area.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Stinglwagner, Gerhard; Haseder, Ilse; Erlbeck, Reinhold, Das Kosmos Wald- und Forstlexikon: Mit über 17.000 Stichwörtern. Stuttgart: Kosmos, 2016. (ISBN: 978-3-440- 15524-0) (23 June 2022)

## Forest landscape restoration

Forest landscape restoration (FLR) is the ongoing process of regaining ecological functionality and enhancing human well-being across deforested or degraded forest landscapes. FLR is more than just planting trees – it is restoring a whole landscape to meet present and future needs and to offer multiple benefits and land uses over time.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IUCN, *International Union for Conservation of Nature* (<https://www.iucn.org/our-work/topic/forests/forest-landscape-restoration>) (23 June 2022)

## Forest management

Sustainable forest management as a dynamic and evolving concept aims to preserve and improve the economic, social and ecological values of all types of forest for the benefit of present and future generations.<sup>1 2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Waldübereinkunft der Vereinten Nationen, 2007*

<sup>2</sup> *Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft* (<https://www.bmel.de/DE/themen/wald/waelder-weltweit/nachhaltige-waldbewirtschaftung.html>) (22 September 2021)

## Global biodiversity hotspots

Biodiversity hotspots make up about 2.3 % of the Earth's land surface, but 44 % of the world's plant species and 35 % of land vertebrates live in these regions. Most plant species in a biodiversity hotspot are endemic, meaning that they are not found anywhere else on Earth. Nonetheless, global biodiversity hotspots are, by definition, in crisis. To be classified as a biodiversity hotspot, a region must have lost at least 70 % of its original natural vegetation, generally because of human activities. Worldwide, there are over 30 recognised biodiversity hotspots.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *National Geographic Society* (<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/encyclopedia/biodiversity-hotspots/>) (23 June 2022)

## Globalisation

Globalisation is a process in which 'events in one part of the world increasingly affect societies and problem areas in other parts of the world' (Wichard Woyke). The natural boundaries of time and space are becoming less and less important in many areas. The costs and time involved in transporting information, people, goods and capital right across the globe have fallen drastically, and global channels of communication are getting faster and cheaper all the time. When we say 'cross-border', 'international' or 'global', we usually mean 'across state borders'. In conditions of globalisation, the agency and efficacy of states coincide less and less with their borders. The starting point for understanding processes of globalisation is the modern nation state, its borders and its validity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung* (<https://www.bpb.de/veranstaltungen/netzwerke/teamglobal/67277/was-ist-globalisierung>) (23 June 2022)

## Greenhouse gases

Greenhouse gases are gaseous constituents of the atmosphere (both natural and anthropogenic) which absorb and emit thermal infrared radiation. This causes the greenhouse effect. Water vapour (H<sub>2</sub>O), carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) are the main greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere. There are also a number of entirely human-made greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, such as the halocarbons and other chlorine- and bromine-containing substances.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC (2007): Climate Change 2007. Synthesis Report* ([https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4\\_syr\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4_syr_full_report.pdf)) (23 June 2022)

## Habitat

A habitat is a characteristic environment of a species.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Brockhaus, Habitat* (<http://brockhaus.de/ecs/enzy/article/habitat-ökologie>) (23 June 2022))

## Indigenous peoples

The United Nations have replaced the previous terms ‘native’ or ‘Aboriginal’ with ‘indigenous peoples’. However, there is no internationally binding definition for this term. What is important is to distinguish it clearly from the term ‘minorities’. The statutes of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) state: ‘The term indigenous people refers to people living in countries which have a population composed of differing ethnic or racial groups who are descendants of the earliest populations living in the area and who do not as a group control the national government of the countries within which they live.’ Self-identification and identification by others in the community of indigenous peoples are decisive criteria.<sup>1</sup>

Although there is no uniform definition of the term ‘indigenous peoples’, the following working definition is generally accepted and is used by most international organisations today. It is based on four criteria:<sup>2</sup>

- Prior occupation and use of a particular territory: indigenous peoples were settled in a territory before the arrival of the dominant population
- Voluntary perpetuation of distinctive cultural features, which can include aspects of language, social organisation, religion and spiritual values, modes of production, laws and institutions
- Self-identification and recognition by other groups or state authorities as a distinct community
- The experience of subjugation, marginalisation, expropriation. Regardless of whether these circumstances are ongoing or not, indigenous peoples are, by definition, a non-dominant part of the population.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Amnesty International Deutschland e. V. (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/#whoareindigenouspeoples?/>) (23 June 2022)

<sup>2</sup> United Nations, Martínez Cobo, *Study of the Problem of Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations* (<https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/martinez-cobo-study.html>) (23 June 2022)

<sup>3</sup> United Nations, *Working Paper by the Chairperson-Rapporteur, Mrs. Erica-Irene A. Daes, on the concept of "indigenous people"*. UN document E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1996/2, 1996. (<https://undocs.org/E/CN.4/Sub.2/AC.4/1996/2>) (23 June 2022)

## Invasive species

Invasive species are animal, fungus and plant species that are not naturally native in or near a particular place. Invasive species are more dominant and more able to resist competitors in the ecosystem in question, and tend to reproduce quickly and displace native species. Invasive species may also harm the human economy or human health.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, *Glossary* (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

## Land use

Humans use land in various ways: for example, as pasture or arable land, or for timber extraction, transport or settlements. These human interventions in the landscape for economic, infrastructural or agricultural purposes are generally described as land use. These interventions have an impact on the climate: they affect the natural exchange of greenhouse gases that takes places between soil, plants and air.<sup>1</sup>

The term ‘land use’ refers to the totality of the arrangements, activities and inputs undertaken in a particular type of land cover (a number of different human activities). The term is also used to refer to the social and economic purpose for which the land is cultivated or managed (e.g. grazing, timber, nature conservation).<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bayerisches Landesamt für Umwelt 2020 (<https://www.lfu.bayern.de/klima/klimaschutz/landnutzung/index.htm>) (6 July 2022)

<sup>2</sup> IPCC (2007): *Climate Change 2007. Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*. ([https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4\\_syr\\_full\\_report.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/ar4_syr_full_report.pdf)) (23 June 2022)

## Megatrends

Globalisation, climate change, digitalisation, new mobility, demographic change – these developments not only shape today's world. On the contrary, their impact has already been apparent for some time, and will still be felt by our children and grandchildren.

These are profound changes, which occur slowly but extend over a long period of time and form the framework for many other related developments. This is why we often speak of megatrends. The term was first used in the early 1980s, and reflects the need to impose order on the world, reduce complexity, and make the future more 'predictable'.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bundeszentrale für politische Bildung (<https://www.bpb.de/shop/zeitschriften/apuz/209968/megatrends>) (23 June 2022)

## Mitigation

Human intervention to reduce emissions or improve greenhouse gas sinks, including options for carbon dioxide removal (CDR).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> [https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15\\_glossary.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/11/sr15_glossary.pdf)

## Nature conservation

Modern nature conservation demands that areas and assets requiring protection be considered within their social context. Sustainable management in and around protected areas offers advantages for humans and nature. Environmentally friendly economic activity is seen as a prerequisite for preserving natural and cultural landscapes and their biodiversity, and for ensuring sustainable and socially responsible development for humans while protecting the environment. Biosphere reserves in particular can serve as models for sustainable management in rural regions. They can offer important stimuli for a green economy, especially in the areas of sustainable land use, organic farming, renewable energies, species protection for future uses, tourism (ecotourism, cultural tourism, health tourism), but also in the field of education for sustainable development.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Umweltbundesamt (<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/naturschutz-biodiversitaet#undefined>) (23 June 2022)

## Natural regions (German: Naturräume)

The term natural region, in the sense of a natural landscape unit, describes the vertical and horizontal space-time structure of the natural geofactors and the complex interrelationships that they form. The hierarchy of landscape units is based on the fact that smaller units merge to form larger ones, and thus determine the landscape-ecological inventory and interrelationships of the larger units. The term natural region includes the impact of human society on natural systems and energy flows.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/geographie/naturraum/5387>) (23 June 2022)

## Organic farming

Organic farming is a holistic production management system, which promotes and enhances agro-ecosystem health, including biodiversity, biological cycles, and soil biological activity. It emphasises the use of management practices in preference to the use of off-farm inputs, taking into account that regional conditions require locally adapted systems. This is accomplished by using, where possible, agronomic, biological, and mechanical methods, as opposed to synthetic materials, to fulfil any specific function within the system.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission (<https://www.fao.org/organicag/oa-faq/oa-faq1/en/>) (23 June 2022)

## Protected area (management)

A protected area is 'a clearly defined geographical area which is recognised and managed on the basis of legal or other effective means and serves to achieve long-term protection and preservation of nature and of the ecosystem services and cultural values based on it'.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WBGU – Wissenschaftlicher Beirat der Bundesregierung Globale Umweltveränderungen (2020), *Landwende im Anthropozän: Von der Konkurrenz zur Integration*. Berlin: WBGU.PDF (<https://www.wbgu.de/de/publikationen/publikation/landwende>) (6 July 2022)



### Red List (IUCN)

The IUCN Red List is an important indicator of the health of the world's biodiversity. It is far more than just a list of species and their status. It is a powerful tool to inform and catalyse action for biodiversity conservation and policy change, critical to protecting natural resources. It provides information about range, population size, habitat and ecology, use and/or trade, threats and conservation actions; this information serves as a basis for necessary conservation decisions.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.iucnredlist.org/> (11 July 2022)

### Reforestation

Afforestation, reforestation or reforestation refers to the planting of forest on previously unforested areas (afforestation) or after clear-felling (reforestation). Reforestation is linked with erosion protection, especially in mountainous landscapes.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg (<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/biologie/aufforstung/6034>) (23 June 2022)

### Regenerative energy sources

The terms 'renewable' and 'regenerative' are used to refer to all primary energies whose sources are – in relation to human existence – inexhaustible. There are essentially six sources of renewable energy: solar radiation, water power, wind, thermal energy in general, geothermal energy, and gravity.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Joachim Herz Stiftung (<https://www.leifiphysik.de/uebergreifend/regenerative-energieversorgung/grundwissen/erneuerbare-energien>) (23 June 2022)

### Regional development

Regional development is focused on sustainable land-use planning. The aim is to reconcile an area's ecological functions with social and economic requirements and to achieve a lasting equilibrium across a large area.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Umweltbundesamt: (<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/themen/nachhaltigkeit-strategien-internationales/planungs-instrumente/umweltschonende-raumplanung/regionalentwicklung-ein-teil-der-umweltschonenden>) (23 June 2022)

### Restoration (of peatlands)

The intentional transformation of a drained soil into a wet soil, e.g. by blocking drainage ditches, switching off pumping systems or removing obstacles.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> IPCC, 2019: Annex I: Glossary [van Diemen, R. (ed.)]. In: *Climate Change and Land: an IPCC special report on climate change, desertification, land degradation, sustainable land management, food security, and greenhouse gas fluxes in terrestrial ecosystems* ([https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/11\\_Annex-I-Glossary.pdf](https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/4/2019/11/11_Annex-I-Glossary.pdf)) (6 July 2022)

### Restoration

Restoration involves human interventions to assist the recovery of an ecosystem that has previously been degraded, damaged or destroyed.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

### Sustainable development

Sustainable development was defined by the Brundtland Commission in 1987 as 'meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Today there are many different definitions of sustainability. What they all have in common is the idea that economic, social and environmentally friendly development must be pursued simultaneously.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> WBGU – Wissenschaftlicher Beirat der Bundesregierung Globale Umweltveränderungen (2016), *Der Umzug der Menschheit: Die transformative Kraft der Städte*. Berlin: WBGU.PDF (<https://www.wbgu.de/de/publikationen/publikation/der-umzug-der-menschheit-die-transformative-kraft-der-staedte>) (23 June 2022)

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by all the member states of the United Nations in 2015, is a shared concept for peace and prosperity for humans and the planet, now and in the future. At its core are the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which constitute an urgent call to action for all countries – both industrial and developing countries – within the framework of a global partnership. The SDGs acknowledge that the elimination of poverty and other disadvantages must go hand in hand with strategies to improve health and education, to reduce inequality, and to boost economic growth – while at the same time combatting climate change and working to protect our oceans and forests.

*United Nations*

(<https://sdgs.un.org/goals>) (23 June 2022)

## Sustainability

Sustainability means ensuring the continued existence of natural and human systems. This implies the continuous functioning of ecosystems, the preservation of a high level of biodiversity, the recycling of natural resources, and – in the human sector – the successful application of justice and equity.<sup>1</sup>

The term originally came from forestry, where it meant only logging as much timber as could grow back.

In a more generalised sense it means living from the interest, not the capital.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change IPCC, Glossary* (<https://www.ipcc.ch/srocc/chapter/glossary/>) (23 June 2022)

<sup>2</sup> *Umweltbundesamt, Glossar* (<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/service/glossary/n>) (23 June 2022)

## Urbanisation

The expansion of urban behaviours and lifestyles of the population and the resulting spatial structures and processes. Urbanisation is therefore not so much an increase in population or buildings, but a process of innovation, during which previously rural areas become urbanised with regard to the social, occupational and employment structure of space-relevant behaviours and the physiognomy of the cultural landscape.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *MMCD NEW MEDIA, Düsseldorf* (<https://www.scinexx.de/dossierartikel/glossar-5/>) (23 June 2022)

## Weltwärts

The ‘weltwärts’ programme was launched in 2008 by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) to support young people in their commitment to ‘One World’. The name means ‘worldwards’ or ‘towards the world’.

*Engagement Global, weltwärts*

(<https://www.weltwaerts.de/de/programmlinien-ueber-welt-waerts.html>) (23 June 2022)

## Species conservation

Protection of threatened or endangered plant and animal species in their natural habitat.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg*

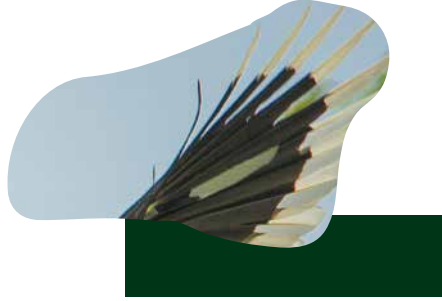
(<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/biologie/artenschutz/5197>) (23 June 2022)

## Wetlands

Wetlands are landscapes where water is present either all year round or periodically, in standing or flowing form, either on the surface or as groundwater that extends into the rhizosphere (root area) of the plants. A great variety of wetlands can be found both inland and in coastal areas. These include bodies of water (lakes, ponds, watercourses, oxbows), peatlands, swamps, marshes and floodplains, as well as mudflats, estuaries and mangroves. They host a wide range of biotic communities and have a high level of ecological importance. Because of their huge capacity to absorb water, wetlands also play an important role in the global water cycle.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Spektrum Akademischer Verlag, Heidelberg*

(<https://www.spektrum.de/lexikon/biologie-kompakt/feuchtgebiete/4146>) (22 September 2021)



A

Abbreviations



**AA**

Auswärtiges Amt  
Federal Foreign Office  
<https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/de>

**BAGs**

Bundesarbeitsgruppen  
National Voluntary Expert Group (NABU)  
<https://www.nabu.de/wir-ueber-uns/organisation/kontakte/fachausschuesse.html>

**BFAs**

Bundesfachausschüsse  
National Expert Panel (NABU)  
<https://www.nabu.de/wir-ueber-uns/organisation/kontakte/fachausschuesse.html>

**BfN**

Bundesamt für Naturschutz  
German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation  
<https://www.bfn.de/>

**BMEL**

Bundesministerium für Ernährung und  
Landwirtschaft  
Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture  
[https://www.bmel.de/DE/Home/home\\_node.html](https://www.bmel.de/DE/Home/home_node.html)

**BMUV**

Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz,  
nukleare Sicherheit und Verbraucherschutz  
Federal Ministry for the Environment,  
Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and  
Consumer Protection  
[www.bmuv.de/](http://www.bmuv.de/)

**BMZ**

Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche  
Zusammenarbeit und Entwicklung  
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation  
and Development  
[www.bmz.de](http://www.bmz.de)

**CAN**

Climate Action Network  
<https://climatenetwork.org/overview/>

**CBD**

Convention on Biological Diversity  
<https://www.cbd.int/>

**CBD Secretariat**

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological  
Diversity (SCBD)  
<https://www.cbd.int/>

**CBO**

Community-based organisation

**CI**

Conservation International  
<https://www.conservation.org/>

**CITES**

Convention on International Trade in Endangered  
Species of Wild Fauna and Flora  
(Washington Convention on Species Protection)  
<https://cites.org/eng/disc/what.php>

**CMS**

Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species  
(Bonn Convention) <https://www.cms.int/>

**CSA**

Climate-smart agriculture  
<http://www.fao.org/climate-smart-agriculture/en/>

**DAAD**

Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
German Academic Exchange Service  
[https://www.daad.de/de/der-daad/wer-wir-sind/  
organisation/](https://www.daad.de/de/der-daad/wer-wir-sind/organisation/)

**Danida**

Term used for Denmark's development cooperation,  
belongs to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
<https://um.dk/en/danida>

**EEB**

European Environmental Bureau  
<https://eeb.org/>

**EHS**

Environmental health and safety

**ESMF**

Environmental and Social Management Framework

**EU Commission**

European Commission

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/index\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en)

**FÖJ**

Freiwilliges Ökologisches Jahr

Voluntary Ecological Year, organised by the Förderverein Ökologische Freiwilligendienste e. V.

(Support Organisation for Voluntary

Ecological Services)

<https://foej.de/>

**GEF**

Global Environment Facility

<https://www.thegef.org/>

**GIZ**

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH

German Agency for International Cooperation

<https://www.giz.de/de/html/index.html>

**GLEN**

Global Learning and Education Network

<https://asa.engagement-global.de/glen.html>

**GPI**

Global Peatland Initiative

<https://www.globalpeatlands.org/>

**IFC**

International Finance Corporation

[https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/corp\\_ext\\_content/ifc\\_external\\_corporate\\_site/home](https://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/corp_ext_content/ifc_external_corporate_site/home)

**JICA**

Japan International Cooperation Agency

<https://www.jica.go.jp/english/about/index.html>

**ILO**

International Labour Organisation (UN)

<https://www.ilo.org/berlin/lang--de/index.htm>

**IPBES**

Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services

<https://ipbes.net/>

**IRCEF**

Interreligious and Civil Environmental Forum of Eastern Europe

<https://ircef.org/>

**IUCN**

International Union for Conservation of Nature

<https://www.iucn.org/de>

**KfW**

Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau

KfW Development Bank

<https://www.kfw-entwicklungsbank.de/Internationale-Finanzierung/KfW-Entwicklungsbank/>

**KPI**

Key Performance Indicators

**MAP**

Multi-actor partnership

<https://bengo.engagement-global.de/multi-akteurs-partnerschaften-map.html>

**NGO**

Non-governmental organisation

<https://www.bpb.de/nachschlagen/lexika/das-junge-politik-lexikon/320861/nichtregierungsorganisation-nro-ngo>

**Norad**

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

<https://www.norad.no/en/front/about-norad/>

**PDO**

Partner Development Officer

**TNC**

The Nature Conservancy  
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/>

**T&E**

Transport & Environment Europe  
<https://www.transportenvironment.org/>

**UBA**

Umweltbundesamt  
German Environment Agency  
<https://www.umweltbundesamt.de/das-uba>

**UN**

United Nations; also known as United Nations  
Organisation (UNO).  
<https://www.un.org/>  
German Translation Section of the UN:  
<https://www.un.org/Depts/german/de/neuedok.html>

**UNESCO**

United Nations Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organisation  
<https://www.unesco.de/>

**WCS**

Wildlife Conservation Society  
<https://www.wcs.org/>

**WWF**

World Wide Fund For Nature  
<https://www.wwf.de/>

## Imprint

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**‘We are what we do – also internationally’. And today, more than ever, local actions have global consequences. In the light of these principles and NABU’s own history as an organisation, we have developed a new strategy for our international work.**

**The International Strategy 2030 sets the course for our international nature conservation projects and programmes. It offers guidance for NABU staff, volunteers and partners, who are constantly searching for effective answers to the most urgent questions of our time.**

**Nothing has more impact on the state of our planet – or a greater influence on its future – than the climate and biodiversity crisis. In collaboration with a growing network of international partners, we are tackling these global crises with active nature conservation, backed by expertise, passion and vision.**

**Our vision is an Earth with intact ecosystems, a stable climate and a high level of biodiversity. For many years NABU has worked internationally – and of course strategically – to make this vision a reality.**

