



Endorsements for the Report on *Financing Nature: Closing the Global Biodiversity Financing Gap*

Robert Zoellick (11th President of the World Bank, between 2007 and 2012, Brunswick Group)

“Biodiversity grants earth a treasure—of experience, knowledge, health, food, resilience, insurance, amazement, beauty, and life. With a combination of proper valuation, market incentives, and reasonable investments, public and private sector stewards can safeguard this natural wealth and extend this biological legacy for those to come. This report explains how.”

—

Luis Alberto Moreno (President of the Inter-American Development Bank, former Colombian Ambassador to the US)

“This report fills an important gap in our understanding of biodiversity finance showing the relevance of valuing natural capital and the importance of involving public and private stakeholders.”

—

Mario Draghi (President of the European Central Bank between 2011 and 2019)

“How to value nature and what to do to conserve biodiversity are fundamental questions that we must address to cope with the ongoing destruction of the earth. This new report by the Paulson Institute, the Nature Conservancy and Cornell University is one of the most comprehensive, innovative and realistic assessments of the actions needed to ensure that nature is appropriately valued. It highlights the role of governments in adopting suitable policies and in devising the right incentives for catalysing the private sector response.

It also shows that the financing required to introduce more sustainable practices that would benefit nature, is substantial but not unrealistic. The report also suggests specific policy routes for filling the gap. This report is a must read for all those who have begun to understand the magnitude of the risks that our planet is facing and want to take decisive action.”

—

Michael Bloomberg (businessman, politician, philanthropist, and author, former Mayor of New York City)

“Climate change isn’t a faraway danger – it’s an immediate threat to people’s health and livelihoods. The good news is that policymakers don’t have to choose between protecting nature on one hand, and promoting economic growth on the other. In fact, more business leaders are already choosing to save money, reduce risk, and attract capital by going green. There’s not a moment to waste: If both the public and private sectors expand their investments in conservation, they can not only prevent environmental catastrophe – they can strengthen local economies and improve people’s everyday lives, right away.”

—

Tom Lovejoy ("the Godfather of Biodiversity", President of the Amazon Biodiversity Center, a Senior Fellow at the United Nations Foundation and university professor in the Environmental Science and Policy department at George Mason University)

"We live on the most remarkable of all planets because of life on Earth. The Pandemic and the California climate induced fires are but two signals that we have been drastically abusing the glorious variety of life on Earth. That gave rise to and supports human civilization. We ignore it at our peril.

We must recognize that our future and the Living Planet are inextricably intertwined. Biodiversity needs to be integrated into our economic system. This shows that the way forward depends on much better integration of biodiversity and other environmental concerns into our economic system and decision-making. The Paulson Institute supported by the Nature Conservancy and Cornell University provides a well-documented solid analysis of the challenge and the way forward."

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Kristalina Georgieva (Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund)

"Investing in ecosystems and biodiversity is essential for life and it is smart economics—without it, growth cannot be climate-friendly and sustainable. That is why the IMF is working to help our 189 members gain the benefits and meet the costs of conserving nature.

One striking example: our research shows restoring whale populations worldwide would remove as much carbon from the atmosphere as two billion trees. As well as the sheer beauty of conserving these magnificent creatures, we have estimated a substantial economic value: about \$2 million per whale.

With the help of investors, advocates, governments, international organizations and private institutions like the Paulson Institute, we can properly value nature and close the global biodiversity financing gap.

Biodiversity and species are being lost every day. We can reverse this trend and bequeath a more resilient, beautiful world to our children and grandchildren. But we must act now—and act together."

—

John Kerry (former US Secretary of State)

"We're in the middle of a red-alert generational struggle to avoid irreversible disaster for our planet, a struggle that's increasingly urgent because we didn't act a generation ago when the science and the warnings started flashing yellow. The science should alarm all of us, but the all-hands-on-deck, practical steps in this report should galvanize us and give us reason for determined optimism. Governments can't do it alone. That moment passed. Sweeping policy changes by governments won't be enough if they're not coupled with unprecedented private sector investment. But that's where the optimism comes from in this report, because if we spur massive movements in finance, we not only conserve nature and save lives, but create jobs and spark an economic boom that helps us build back better from this moment on earth. That's an historic opportunity we need to seize upon for our planet, and for our economy."

—

Mark Carney (UN Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance and former Governor of the Bank of England)

"Nature and biodiversity are essential to preserving the delicate ecosystems of our planet. Our forests, coral reefs and oceans are all carbon sinks, absorbing carbon dioxide to prevent our planet

from overheating. Neglecting to maintain these natural assets and simultaneously increasing carbon emissions through human activity tips our planet closer to climate chaos.

Perhaps because they are not formally, financially valued, the ongoing losses to biodiversity and nature are too often overlooked or treated as an issue for another day. Nature needs to be treated as an asset. Ecosystems that have more diverse natural assets are more stable, productive, resilient and adaptable. Just as diversity within a financial portfolio reduces risk and uncertainty associated with financial returns, greater biodiversity reduces risks and uncertainty within a portfolio of natural assets. As we awaken to the importance of natural capital, we need to place greater value on sustainability and biodiversity – the precondition to solving the twin crises of biodiversity and climate."

—

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

"Valuing nature has at times been misinterpreted as “putting dollar signs on trees”. But valuing nature is about realizing the bigger value that nature plays in our societies and economies. It is about acknowledging that without nature and the services it provides, we cannot guarantee human life and prosperity. As countries around the world seek to build back better and to agree on an ambitious and relevant post-2020 global biodiversity framework, financing biodiversity conservation must move in step with our ambitions. When we finance nature, we finance a just, healthy and secure future for people everywhere."