

WORLD WILDLIFE FUND

2022 CONSERVATION FORECAST



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2022 CONSERVATION FORECAST

The start of any new year is full of reflection and anticipation. This was certainly the case for WWF as we entered 2022. We're excited about the possibilities ahead this year. But now more than ever, we must have a model that ensures prosperity for the future, addresses inequality, and decouples economic growth and environmental destruction. As a global organization, WWF is committed to making progress, in a positive fashion, for people and nature around the world.

This 2022 WWF Conservation Forecast provides insight into the priorities and strategies that will guide WWF's conservation efforts over the next several months. It is your partnership that makes this work possible, and we look forward to keeping you updated on the progress we make this year, together. With your support, WWF will prioritize work in four core areas: nature-based solutions, community engagement, sustainable infrastructure, and wildlife conservation.



**NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS**



**COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**



**SUSTAINABLE
INFRASTRUCTURE**



**WILDLIFE
CONSERVATION**



2022 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

Last year, several reports were published with grim findings around climate change. Climate Action Tracker projections indicated the world was heading toward at least 2.4°C of warming. But coming out of the important UN climate meeting in Glasgow (the 26th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, known as COP26), we felt cautiously optimistic by what was achieved. There was emphasis on action and specific initiatives to deliver on broader commitments, many corporate net-zero and science-based targets commitments were made, the profile and energy of Indigenous and local communities was undeniable, and the profile of nature as essential to both mitigation and resilience in the face of climate change was more pronounced than ever.

We have less than nine years to turn things around and meet our goal of limiting global warming to 1.5°C. Research shows that nature-based solutions (NBS) and the broader land sector could contribute up to 30% of the climate mitigation required. **WWF is establishing the Nature-Based Solutions Origination Platform to create a new paradigm to scale and align investments in high-quality NBS.** The platform will originate, structure, and implement NBS interventions in a cohort of a pre-identified landscapes that will demonstrate and set the bar for high-integrity climate and nature impacts and benefit-sharing. Through this platform we will identify the interventions needed at the landscape level, instead of taking a piecemeal approach, to allow for a more holistic and, ultimately, sustainable form of conservation.

WWF Youth Ambassadors at the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) in Glasgow, UK, November 2021 © David Bebber / WWF-UK



COMMUNITY-BASED CONSERVATION

Indigenous Peoples and local communities manage half of the world's land and care for 80% of Earth's biodiversity. Securing nature and its services for future generations hinges on our ability to partner with and uphold the rights of the Indigenous Peoples and local communities who live in some of the most biodiverse places on our planet. They are often the ones who most directly depend on nature and therefore are among the most vulnerable people on Earth. They must be the drivers and beneficiaries of conservation efforts in their homes.

OECMs, which stands for 'other effective area-based conservation measures,' are critical to reaching global conservation goals and a key focal area for WWF. OECMs are a conservation designation for areas that are effectively conserving biodiversity but are outside of formal government protected areas. **Our goal is to shift emphasis towards supporting existing stewards of biodiversity—embodying an inclusive, equitable, rights-based approach that considers current and future conditions** (including connectivity and climate) in landscapes, river basins, and seascapes, and is innovative and science-based.

Given the critical role of Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and other nature stewards in global biodiversity conservation, we believe it is our mission to directly support their visions for their territories and areas. We are committed to investing the time and resources necessary to build and maintain the trust required for meaningful partnerships, in addition to managing risk through WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework. We will use our strength as an internationally credible science-based conservation organization to increase OECM participatory consultation and inclusive planning processes, introduce and test creation of climate-resilient OECMs, and develop OECM support systems that allow rapid scaling-up of the OECM concept.

Teacher, Jose Jesus Zafiamá, planting trees with his students on the school grounds in La Chorrera, in the heart of the Colombian Amazon. © Luis Barreto / WWF-UK



JUST TRANSITION TO A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

A 2021 report from the UK government titled “The Economics of Biodiversity: Dasgupta Review” found that the equivalent of 1.6 planets would be required to sustain current standards of living. But the disparity of the footprint between the world’s richest and poorest are huge. We will focus on helping narrow that gap through sustainable development of infrastructure, among other interventions. While infrastructure development is essential to meet humanity’s social and economic needs, including ramping up a global energy transition to meet net-zero targets, badly planned, placed, and constructed infrastructure can have a dramatically adverse impact on the natural world.

More than 25 million km of new roads are anticipated by 2050—enough to wrap around the world more than 600 times, with 90% in developing countries. On a planet with its natural areas already carved into fragments—the vast majority of which are less than 1 km² and only 7% are larger than 100 km²—this will further impact wildlife populations by restricting them to smaller and smaller habitat patches, and drive further deforestation in the last remaining old-growth forests, increasing already elevated risks for zoonotic disease spillover. Ninety-five percent of deforestation in the Amazon, for example, occurs within 5 km of a road.

WWF recently worked with the government of Colombia to develop its Green Road Infrastructure Guidelines (GRI), designed to help move the country toward more sustainable and resilient infrastructure. We hope the GRI will serve as a model for other countries to emulate. We are also making real headway on shifting infrastructure design, construction, and safeguard norms through a partnership with the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC), the membership organization that supplies the standard contract template used by most multi-lateral development banks for managing large infrastructure projects.

Road construction in the Pedra Preta municipality of the Amazon © Adriano Gambarini / WWF Living Amazon Initiative / WWF-Brazil

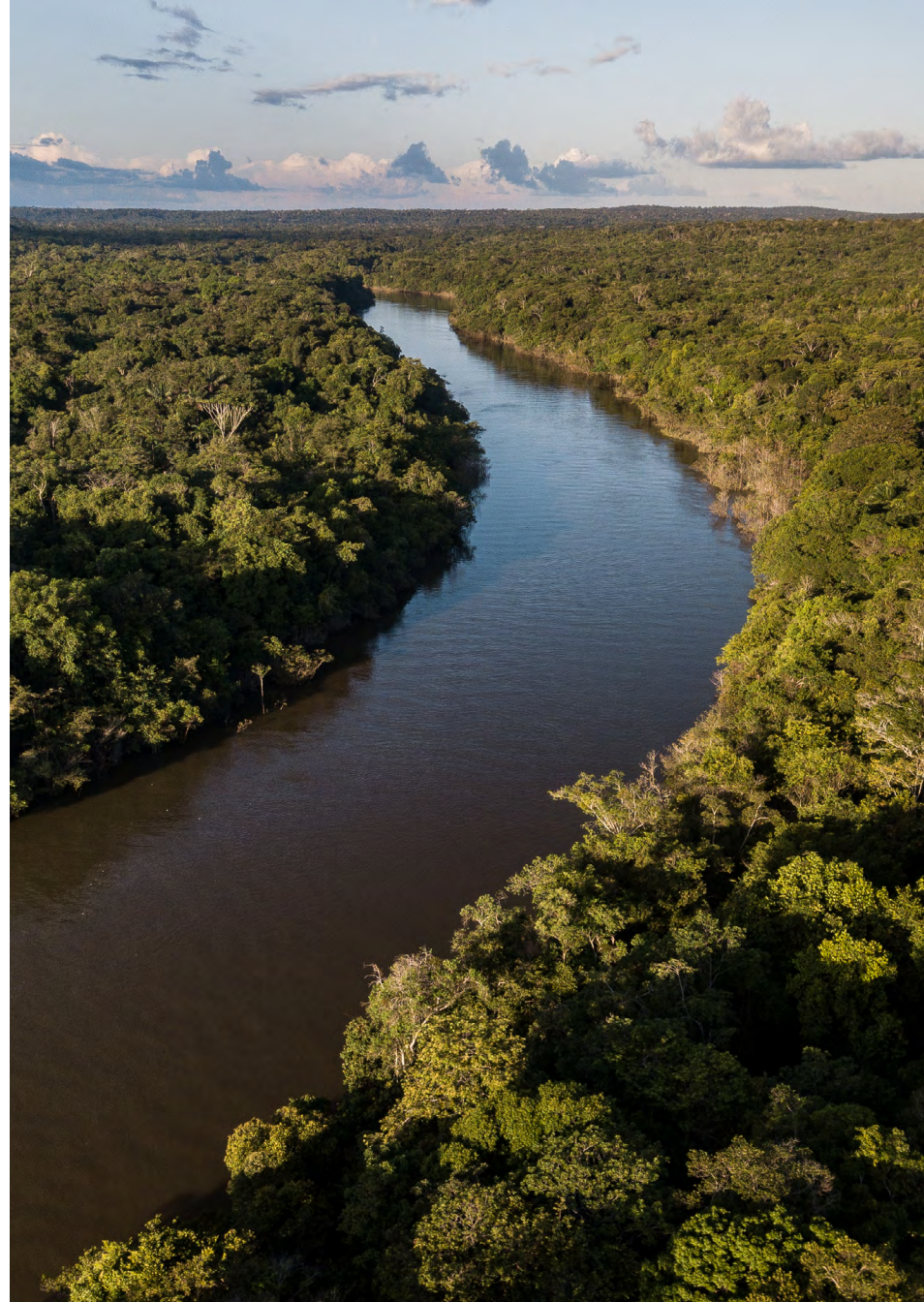


WWF and FIDIC aim to work together to support and enhance our shared interest in promoting best practices around sustainable infrastructure design and planning, recognizing that the engineering community and WWF can be powerful and effective partners to influence global practices. **To kick off our collaboration, we recently received significant grants in both the Amazon and Asia to pilot our work on the ground.**

And on the finance front, WWF served as a key contributor on the biodiversity, adaptation, and climate change criteria included in the Finance to Accelerate the Sustainable Transition-Infrastructure (FAST-Infra) label that launched at COP26. FAST is a public-private platform that aims to increase the flow of private finance to sustainable infrastructure in developing countries. Responsible action on infrastructure is a key piece of a healthy future for nature and people.

Top: WWF Supporters take part in the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice march through Glasgow during COP26 © David Bebbler / WWF-UK

Right: Aerial view of Amazon forest and the Red River, La Chorrera, Colombia © Luis Barreto / WWF-UK



WILDLIFE

Finally, and importantly, 2022 is the Year of the Tiger on the Chinese Lunar Calendar. In 2010, the last Year of the Tiger, WWF joined others to launch Tx2, a campaign to double the number of wild tigers. **Today, in a significant but fragile turnaround, their numbers are rising in six countries and the global wild tiger population has increased by 25% since 2010.** But we still have so far to go.

The high profile enjoyed by tiger conservation helps focus attention on the irreplaceable ecosystems they depend on. Every time we protect a tiger, we also protect around 25,000 acres of forest that sustain wildlife and local communities and supply people around the world with clean air, water, and food. Where this keystone species thrives, so do many other plants and animals, like Asian elephants, Sumatran and Indian rhino, orangutans, Asian black bear, and leopard, as well as tiger prey, including deer, pigs, and buffalo.

The global movement to double wild tigers has created a blueprint for collaborative conservation across Asia – and beyond. In moving away from a single species focus to an ecosystem focus, it shows that investment and efforts for tigers or other iconic keystone species can be the catalyst for a cascade of benefits for people and nature.

Close up of a tiger's face (Panthera tigris) © National Geographic Stock / Michael Nichols / WWF



THANK YOU

Your passion for our planet is driving transformation at a scale that makes a difference. Thank you for all that you do to protect life on Earth.