



**INVESTING IN NATURE
FOR RESILIENT SOCIETIES AND POVERTY REDUCTION**

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- 1. Denmark joined IUCN, the world's largest global environmental organization, in 1951. Denmark's membership has been leveraged multiple times – with the deployment of sustainable livelihood options in the world's poorest economies; the efficient delivery of multi-agency projects managed by IUCN in critical sectors such as water; and the shaping of the Sustainable Development Goals.**
 - Founded in 1948, IUCN is the world's largest global environmental organization. It is a unique democratic Union with more than 1,200 State and NGO Member organizations in 160 countries.
 - IUCN provides the latest science and knowledge on nature and its contribution to human well-being; it runs hundreds of field projects around the world to better manage natural environments; and helps governments, communities, NGOs and businesses develop environmental laws, policies and best practice. It is the only environmental organization with Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly.
 - Denmark joined IUCN as a State member at the very beginning of this journey in 1951 and currently has a total of 9 Members – 1 State member (Ministry of Environment and Food) and 8 NGOs (Forests of the World, Copenhagen Zoo, Danish Outdoor Council, WWF, The Danish Society for Nature Conservation, The Danish Ornithological Society – BirdLife Denmark, CARE Denmark, and the Nordic Hunters' Alliance). A National Committee of IUCN Members was established in 2005.
 - IUCN's six Commissions unite over 15,000 volunteer experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice. The Union greatly benefits from the involvement of the 84 Commission members from Denmark – many of whom from research and scientific organizations – and, conversely, they greatly benefit from accessing this large, unrivalled knowledge network.
 - Denmark's framework agreement with IUCN has been essential in ensuring active engagement in the shaping of global policy, most recently the SDG process. By investing in IUCN, Denmark has also yielded considerable influence on the delivery of multi-partner projects in critical areas of interest, such as water.

- 2. Investing in nature significantly contributes to broader global priorities, including economic and social development. For the last 7 decades, IUCN has worked on pragmatic solutions to the world's most pressing environment and development challenges.**
 - With the endorsement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September, IUCN is ensuring full alignment with its Programme 2017-2020. Investing in IUCN and its Programme will therefore result in investing in the implementation of the SDGs.

- Nature and sustainable development are inextricably linked: nature provides food, water, energy and other benefits essential for development and well-being. Nature is essential to the achievement of the SDGs, including poverty reduction and gender equality.
- IUCN coined the term “sustainable development” in the 1980s and has continued in that tradition by playing an active role in the elaboration of the SDGs over the last few years.
- Moreover, as an observer to the Inter-Agency Expert Group on indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG), IUCN is following closely the indicator process, which needs to ensure that indicators are able to measure progress towards achieving the different targets and are based on scientifically sound data. The knowledge products mobilised by IUCN can provide data for different indicators.

3. The breakdown of nature’s delicate web inevitably leads to the breakdown of societies. Broken societies lead to conflict and large-scale involuntary migration. Much of IUCN’s work focuses on vital livelihood strategies that are part of building resilient societies.

- Nature’s amazingly constructed web of interdependencies provides our food, air and water; the very essence of life on earth. Break that web, and the system is disturbed. This will manifest itself in the form of floods, droughts, failed harvests, pollution clean-up or worse.
- There are many examples in recent and more distant history showing strong connections between environmental degradation and social unrest or conflict. In this regard, 40% of all intrastate conflicts in the last 60 years are connected to the exploitation of natural resources. With more than 270 transboundary rivers worldwide and escalating threats, such as climate change and conflict, the need for improved capacity in managing water resources sustainably and equitably has never been greater.
- Refugees and economic migrants currently flowing into Europe and elsewhere globally are the direct result, in part, of environmental collapse and climate change. There is growing evidence that the 2007–2010 drought contributed to the conflict in Syria.
- Through its projects, including those implemented with member organizations, IUCN plays a critical role in building more resilient societies in some of the world’s poorer countries.

Sustaining the livelihoods of the Iraqi marshland communities

- In 2009, the Iraqi Ministry of Oil awarded Shell Iraq Petroleum Development (SIPD) and Petronas Carigali a contract for technical assistance in developing the Majnoon field in Basra. The Northern part of the Majnoon concession area lies within the Hawizeh Marsh, a wetland of international importance.
- IUCN and Wetlands International are working with SIPD to find ways to tackle this challenge and demonstrate that sustainable gas and oil development and conservation can go hand in hand. The initiative aims to help the government achieve its goal of ensuring sustainable, social and economic development through wise use of the environment and sustaining the livelihoods of the Iraqi people, including marshlands communities.

Reviving the traditional Hima system for improved livelihoods

- In Jordan’s Zarqa River Basin, IUCN has piloted the traditional Hima system, based on rotating rangeland enclosures. This assessment resulted in important insights for planning of local level activities, in terms of priorities that need to be given either to enhancing rights, knowledge and/or benefits as well as how to empower local people to take charge of such management.
- There is growing interest in reviving Hima System as a suitable land management tool within pastoralist communities in Jordan, increased involvement of women, reversing rangeland degradation. Al Hima is a traditional institution of tenure which has governed rangeland

resources in the Arabian Peninsula for over 1400 years, contributing to the sustainable management and conservation of vast areas of rangeland and natural resources.

- Appropriate land management can protect and maximize rangeland environmental services for society. Large-scale adoption of the IUCN piloted Hima system within the Zarqa River Basin may deliver between 143 and 289 million JOD worth of net-benefits to Jordanian society.

4. Nature provides cost effective solutions to the world's environmental challenges. Through its projects, IUCN delivers successful "Nature-based solutions" at various scales around the world.

- Nature-based solutions are inspired and supported by nature. These naturally functioning systems deliver valuable services to communities, such as water and climate regulation, soil formation and disaster risk reduction.
- Solutions may include mangroves which help mitigate climate change and communities from coastal storms; Peatland restoration which helps to reduce CO2 emissions and improve water quality; Tidal marshes which offer protection from flooding; Urban parks which mitigate the effects of summer heat waves. These can often be deployed more cost-effectively than alternative, built infrastructure.
- These Nature-based solutions provide strong returns on resilience and development as well as conservation returns.

Reducing the risk of disasters through environmental management

- IUCN's project on Ecosystems Protecting Infrastructure and Communities (EPIC), currently being implemented in six countries for about 750,000 beneficiaries, is an example of how IUCN's work helps reduce the risk of disasters through environmental management.
- While the project is still in relatively early stages of implementation, activities include water management, soil conservation, reforestation, restoration and sustainable management. Communities are at the centre of implementation, undertaking activities, receiving training and raising awareness.
- Denmark joined the project in 2012 with support to activities in Vietnam, Bangladesh and Indonesia.

Building better water governance to improve livelihood conditions

- Over the course of the Water and Nature Initiative, IUCN worked in 23 river basins and watersheds in Asia, the Americas, Africa, Oceania and the Middle East, covering more than 2.5 million km², with a population of approximately 354 million people for 12 years (2000-12) and IUCN is still active in many of the basins. The project is an example of how IUCN works towards building better water governance to improve livelihood conditions.
- Achievements include new national policies on water resources management developed or implemented in Tanzania, China, Viet Nam, Botswana and Mexico; new international treaties signed or new institutions for transboundary cooperation established in nine basins including Tacaná, Senegal, Komadugu Yobe, Okavango, Limpopo, Himal and Mekong – and new international treaties in Volta and Lake Tanganyika.
- In the Volta River Basin (Burkina Faso and Ghana), the re-vegetation of 112.5 ha of degraded river banks along the White Volta was completed using fruit trees and fuelwood species to combine riverbank restoration and livelihood benefits. These activities contributed to improving incomes for participating households by 90-180 USD per year.

Empowering local communities to take charge of their resilience

- Through the Mangroves for the Future (MFF) project, IUCN promotes the role that healthy, well-managed coastal ecosystems play in building the resilience of ecosystem-dependent coastal communities in Bangladesh, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam.
- It addresses priorities for long-term sustainable coastal ecosystem management including climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction, promotion of ecosystem health, and the development of sustainable livelihoods. The project empowers local communities to take charge of their resilience.
- As of December 2014, MFF has supported 270 grant projects (totalling approximately US\$6,100,000) and, of the 162 projects completed, 53 projects focused on mangrove restoration. Approximately 600 ha of mangrove area have been restored in total. MFF has also influenced the establishment of local participatory management systems currently working towards improved management and protection of over 1,300 km of coastline.

5. Businesses around the world are recognizing the importance of nature. IUCN is developing practical tools to help them measure and value their direct and indirect impacts and dependencies on nature.

- Decision-makers are realizing that nature's losses are intricately linked to economic development, food challenges and water security.
- Portfolios of institutional owners, for instance, are increasingly exposed to growing and widespread costs from environmental damage caused by companies. The cost of environmental damage caused by the world's 3,000 largest publicly-listed companies in 2008 has been estimated at USD 2.15 trillion.
- IUCN is working with partners on a Natural Capital Protocol which aims at providing a standardized framework for business to measure and value their direct and indirect impacts (positive & negative) and dependencies on nature.
- IUCN is also partnering with individual companies around the world and building a strong case for safeguarding nature.

Developing incentives for sustainable shrimp farming

- With Minh Phu Seafood, IUCN is supporting mangrove-shrimp polyculture in an area of the Viet Nam Delta that is heavily degraded by intensive shrimp farming. Minh Phu pays a 10% price premium to farmers producing certified organic shrimp, which means maintaining more than 50% mangrove cover on their farms.
- In 2014, 1,081 shrimp farmers were trained on organic farming techniques and certification, and 741 farms were certified. This covers 2,695 Ha of farming area in Ngoc Hien District.
- In addition, 40 ha of deforested mangrove land have been replanted, which helped 200 shrimp farms gain certification. This is measurably good for nature, good for business and good for communities.

Imagining tomorrow's energy solutions

- In 2014, IUCN joined Danish biotechnology company Novozymes when it established the Sustainable Bioenergy High Impact Opportunity (HIO), a multistakeholder partnership that seeks to facilitate the development and deployment of sustainable bioenergy solutions in key sectors and industries where the environmental and socioeconomic benefits are greatest.

- IUCN co-chairs the HIO Steering Committee with FAO. In this regard, IUCN is also a member of the Advisory Board of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4All) initiative.

6. The economy needs nature but nature's values remain to be fully recognized in standard accounting frameworks. IUCN's environmental data can help strengthen national statistics for better informed policy- and decision-making.

- Nature's contribution to the economy is often "invisible" in the sense that nature does not send an invoice at the end of every month for the use of clean water, clean air or pollination services by bees.
- Danish pharmaceutical Novo Nordisk, has responded to this apparent "invisibility of nature" by publishing an Environmental Profit and Loss Account (E P&L) which shows total environmental impacts amounting to 223 million Euro (in 2011), including indirect impacts throughout its supply chain.
- Much of IUCN's environmental data and knowledge is highly relevant to the development of stronger macro indicators at the national level. IUCN is participating in a global effort to strengthen statistical standards so as to better reflect environmental dimensions.
- Much of this work is of immense relevance to tracking the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.