

## Strengthening the [Joint Statement](#) by the Multilateral Development Banks on Nature, People and Planet: Six Ways to Back Up Words with Action

An Open Letter to the Presidents of the Asian Development Bank, African Development Bank, Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, Caribbean Development Bank, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, European Investment Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, IDB Invest, Islamic Development Bank, and World Bank Group.

Dear Presidents:

We welcome the initiative that your institutions have taken in putting forward the [Joint Statement](#) by the Multilateral Development Banks on Nature, People and Planet. We are encouraged by seeing a broader group of MDBs working together to promote outcomes that better incorporate the role of nature in sustainable development and halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030. In particular, we are pleased to see commitments made across the pillars of Leadership, Fostering 'nature positive' investments, Fostering national and regional level synergies, Valuing nature to guide decision making, and Reporting, as these -- if properly defined and implemented-- are all needed areas of focus for MDB finance.

That noted, the [intertwined climate and biodiversity crises](#) require a more ambitious approach like that of the Paris Climate Agreement, in which parties ratchet up their commitments and the goal is upward harmonization. Thus, we would propose that each of your institutions consider how you can improve on the joint statement, and work with your counterparts to produce a stronger statement by the time of COP 27. Specifically, we recommend you advance and operationalize your Joint Statement commitments as follows:

**1. Leadership:** Produce institutional strategic approaches to further mainstream biodiversity into analysis, assessments, advice, investments, and operations by end of **2022**, and accompanying *action plans* by end of 2023, through consultative processes that provide for stakeholder engagement, including marginalized groups (e.g. women, persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, LGBTQI+, youth).

**2. Fostering 'nature positive' investments which halt and reverse the decline of biodiversity by 2030:** While supporting and tracking economic activity to reverse the drivers of nature loss and promote its protection and regeneration, commit also to **halt investments or budget support that directly or indirectly promote sectors such as fossil fuels, industrial livestock, or activities or infrastructure that infringe on [ecologically or culturally valued areas](#).**

**3. Fostering national and regional level synergies:** **Increase** your support for cooperation among public and international organizations to work together *across all sectors and at an accelerated pace, while taking care to avoid and [eliminate private abuse of public goods](#).*

**4. Valuing nature to guide decision making:** Use existing and new tools and **metrics** for public and private sector clients to better value, sustainably manage, protect, and restore nature and its natural assets to deliver *sustainable* development benefits, *including their contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation, by applying a strategic, spatially explicit approach and the polluter pays principle and aligning incentives with values.*

**5. Reporting and Transparency:** *Enhance accountability for and public reporting on your efforts and initiatives to mainstream biodiversity in your analyses, strategies, plans, programs, metrics, and operations.*

**6. Financing:** *Progressively raise the percentage of concessional finance provided to public sector clients to achieve countries' commitments to the international climate and biodiversity conventions in a sustained and coherent manner. [The absence of a specific commitment in this area was a major disappointment of the Joint Statement.]*

We share [here](#) a draft improved text which we propose as a basis for your improved joint statement in 2022, ahead of COP 27, and we look forward to further opportunities for input on this critical area of multilateral finance.

AMATE El Salvador

Asociación Ambiente y Sociedad

Asociación Interamericana para la Defensa del Ambiente (AIDA)

Bank Information Center

Bio Vision Africa (BiVA) (Uganda)

BirdLife International

Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL)

Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (DAR)

Ecoa - Ecologia e Ação

Fundación CAUCE: Cultura Ambiental - Causa Ecologista

Fundación para el Desarrollo de Políticas Sustentables (Fundeps)

Inesc- Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos

International Accountability Project (IAP)

International Rivers

Plataforma Internacional contra la Impunidad (PICI)

Pro-biodiversity Conservationists in Uganda (PROBICOU)

Protección Internacional Mesoamérica

Wetlands International LAC/Fundación Humedales