


Key Learnings from the Reckitt Forum on Accelerating Nature-Based Solutions

Summary of Online Panel Discussion and Collaboration Forum

On June 9, 2021, Reckitt and GlobeScan hosted a **panel discussion and online forum** focused on “**Accelerating Nature-based Solutions**”. We were joined by **the University of Oxford, WWF, and The Green Finance Institute** in an open dialogue to explore the latest trends and perspectives on nature-based solutions. The event began with a panel discussion, and was then followed by an interactive, text-based discussion.

- 1) **Nature-based solutions present the opportunity for triple wins across climate change, biodiversity loss, and economic recovery.** As biodiversity loss and climate change share some of the same fundamental drivers, they also share some of the same solutions. Land use change is the biggest driver of biodiversity decline and the second biggest source of GHGs, therefore, initiatives to protect or enhance carbon stores through the protection of natural ecosystems can both reduce warming and slow biodiversity declines, while supporting the livelihoods of the people that are dependent upon those ecosystems. Successful nature-based solutions are not solely about conservation but are cross-cutting initiatives working in equilibrium towards multi-challenge solutions that address biodiversity, climate change, and the protection of communities.

 *Nature-based solutions sit at the nexus of climate change, biodiversity protection, local economic development and food security.*

- Miguel Veiga-Pestana, SVP Corporate Affairs & Chief Sustainability Officer, Reckitt 

- 2) **Indigenous groups and local communities must drive the nature-based solutions agenda on the ground.** The ICAA Consortium estimates that more than 30% of the world’s conserved land is owned or governed by Indigenous peoples or local communities (more than all national parks and forests at 14%). These communities often have considerable knowledge on how best to work with nature and are already playing a key role in tackling the biodiversity and climate crises. They must be involved in making land use decisions. If these cultural links with local ecosystems are ignored, initiatives are not only unethical, but they are unlikely to be sustainable over the long-term. Nature-based solutions must be place-based partnerships.
- 3) **Some of the richest sources of understanding around how to implement nature-based solutions effectively can be found by looking at current practices in local communities and spotlighting local initiatives.** Rather than looking to science or top-down approaches, spotlighting biodiversity efforts that are going on at local levels across the world can be one of the most effective ways to facilitate knowledge exchange, and support ecosystems while building up resilient communities. Protecting natural capital while strengthening social capital is critical to successful and lasting nature-based solutions.

“When we talk about nature-based solutions we really need to double-down on that part of the definition, that it is about those local partnerships, that it is about the land use decisions being made at the local level and not being imposed on them and sharing these local best practice examples around the world.”

- Nathalie Seddon, Professor of Biodiversity and Founding Director of the Nature-based Solutions Initiative, University of Oxford

4) **There is a need to demonstrate and normalize what successful nature-based solutions look like and ensure that contributions to these projects are always above the 1.5-degree SBTi validated target threshold.**

Corporations and investors should have clear guidelines and thresholds for their contributions to ensure they are supporting relevant and effective programs. Developing an aligned conceptual and implementation framework across different conventions still needs to happen and for this to occur, there must be best in class testing and knowledge sharing models in place. Public sector and philanthropic support is important to test and de-risk projects to bring them to scale. Developing case studies that demonstrate triple wins across carbon, biodiversity and society are critical. These case studies will help to provide confidence for investors by outlining examples of successful ROI's.

“We have to normalize what transformative nature-based solutions for climate mitigation and other societal challenges look like and standardize across the board that investments and corporate contribution to these projects must be above and beyond the 1.5 SBTi validated targets.”

- Vanessa Pérez-Cirera, Deputy Leader, Global Climate & Energy Practice, WWF International

“I can't emphasise enough that need for demonstrators. Testing and knowledge sharing is crucial right now globally.”

- Helen Avery, Head of Nature Programmes, The Green Finance Institute

5) **Despite the vast potential of nature-based solutions, there is still a stronger need for decarbonization. The mitigation potential of nature-based solutions will not be realized without the phasing out of fossil fuels.**

Climate warming undermines the integrity of the biosphere and its ability to store carbon over the long-term or to provide any other benefits to society. Scaling up nature-based solutions must be done in combination with decarbonization efforts, and offsetting alone will not be enough to solve the climate crisis. Companies must have ambitious, credible, and verifiable plans to phase out the use of fossil in addition to their investments in nature-based solutions.