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World Wildlife Fund and the US Government: *Partnering to Protect the Future of Nature*

For 60 years, World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has been working to create a future in which nature and people thrive. WWF works in over 100 countries and is supported by over 1 million members and 11 million activists in the US, and 5 million supporters worldwide. WWF is nonpartisan and solutions-oriented, with a foundation in science. In partnership with governments, local communities, businesses, foundations, and individuals, we are working to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth, including biodiversity loss, the overexploitation of natural resources, and climate change.

Nature loss is at the heart of some of the biggest challenges we are facing.

- **The accelerating loss of global biodiversity.** The loss of species and degradation of our planet's natural systems threatens food and water supplies, undermines communities and economies, and poses real risks to our long-term security and prosperity.
- **The global health and economic crisis due to COVID-19.** Among the main factors driving the spillover of zoonotic diseases, such as COVID-19, from animals to humans is high-risk trade in wildlife and the destruction and degradation of forests and other natural habitats. Addressing these is critical to preventing future pandemics.
- **The global climate crisis.** The loss of forests and other carbon-rich ecosystems plays a major role in driving up atmospheric carbon emissions and worsening climate change.

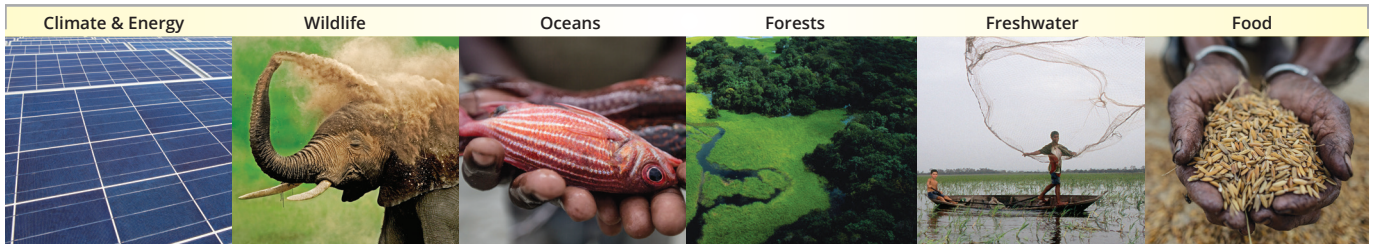
Conservation is a solution to these intertwined crises, and the US should lead the way.

We must fix our broken relationship with nature, for the sake of the communities and economies that depend on it, and for the sake of our long-term health and security. Historically, the US government and federal agencies have played leading roles in advancing conservation efforts globally. WWF believes the US must continue to play such a role and needs to redouble its efforts, both internationally and domestically, given the scope and seriousness of the challenges we face.

We call on the administration and Congress to

- **increase federal investments** in programs that conserve biodiversity and support the sustainable management of natural resources, particularly in partnership with developing countries, local communities, and Indigenous peoples
- **reorient US government** policies to be nature-positive and promote a just transition to a green, sustainable, and equitable economy that is powered by renewable energy and includes sustainable food systems
- **prevent illegal trade in natural resources**, particularly wildlife, timber, and fish, and break the link between the US market and illegally harvested commodities
- **lead globally** to ensure an ambitious international response to nature loss and climate change, making these top priorities for bilateral and multilateral engagement, and to secure global agreements on issues such as plastic pollution
- **drive public-private action**, using incentives, regulation, and the creation of common-sense frameworks to address problems such as climate change and challenges from food and materials production and waste, including plastics

This decade will be pivotal for reversing dangerous global environmental trends. Over the course of 2021, the world will come together with renewed ambition to help protect and restore global biodiversity and turn the tide on the climate crisis. WWF believes the United States must be at the forefront in leading those efforts, at home and abroad.



WWF Priority Actions for the Biden Administration and the 117th Congress:

Global Biodiversity Conservation

- Elevate efforts to halt global loss of nature and decline of ecological systems to a top priority by integrating them into US foreign policy, foreign assistance, and national security policy, and increasing funding to put the US on track to double investments in programs supporting these efforts over the next four years.
- Help drive international ambition in advance of COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity to secure strong 2030 global goals to protect, conserve, and restore nature, and to secure the commitments and resources needed to meet those goals.

Pandemic Prevention & Green Recovery

- Make significant new investments in global efforts to address the root causes of zoonotic spillover—particularly high-risk wildlife trade and the degradation and destruction of forests and other natural habitats. Ensure the whole-of-government response to the COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to enhance global health security fully integrate actions to address these root causes, using a One Health approach.
- Pass a future-focused recovery and stimulus package that invests in sustainable development, green infrastructure, renewable energy, resilient communities, and nature-based solutions—both in the US and globally.

Climate Change

- Following US reentry to the Paris Agreement, put forward new commitments and advance federal policies that will put the US on track to reduce its emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve greater than net-zero emissions before 2050.
- Provide significant new funding for bilateral and multilateral efforts to address climate change, including fulfilling existing and new US commitments to the Green Climate Fund.
- Place the Arctic Ocean and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge permanently off-limits for oil and gas exploration.

Illegal Trade in Wildlife, Timber, and Fish

- Reaffirm and revitalize the Presidential Task Force and National Strategy on Wildlife Trafficking created under President Obama; revive the related Advisory Council; and reauthorize the END Wildlife Trafficking Act.
- Fully implement, fund, and enforce the Lacey Act amendments of 2008 to address illegal timber trade, including strengthened enforcement and a phase-in of all outstanding wood product categories by the end of 2021.
- Continue to strengthen US leadership in ending Illegal, Unregulated, and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and associated human rights abuses. Include executive and legislative actions on seafood integrity and other steps to ensure all seafood imported to the US is fully traceable and complies with the necessary standards.

Sustainable Land Use and "30 x 30"

- Support policies, legislation, and funding to end deforestation and the conversion and degradation of natural habitats, including in the Farm Bill and in decisions about the leasing of federal lands.
- Pass legislation to prevent the import of commodities produced on illegally deforested lands.
- Work closely with communities, Indigenous peoples, and the private sector to conserve 30% of lands and waters by 2030, in the US and globally, through new protections and partnerships that include the conservation and sustainable management of working and private lands and waters.

Plastic Pollution

- Advance policies and legislation to create a circular economy, reduce reliance on single-use materials, and transition to a sustainable waste management system. Lead diplomatic efforts to achieve a binding international treaty to drive and coordinate these types of actions globally, including accession to the Basel Convention.

Environmental Justice

- Support policies and investments to rectify the historical inequities and disadvantages that have led low-income communities, communities of color, and tribes and Indigenous communities to be disproportionately affected by pollution and environmental degradation, in close consultation with these groups.