

Sustaining tropical forest

Biodiversity strategy

2022 - 2024



Introduction

The biodiversity crisis is more acute today than at any other time in mankind's history - we are failing to meet our global biodiversity targets, and indices on the status of biodiversity continue to show downward trends.

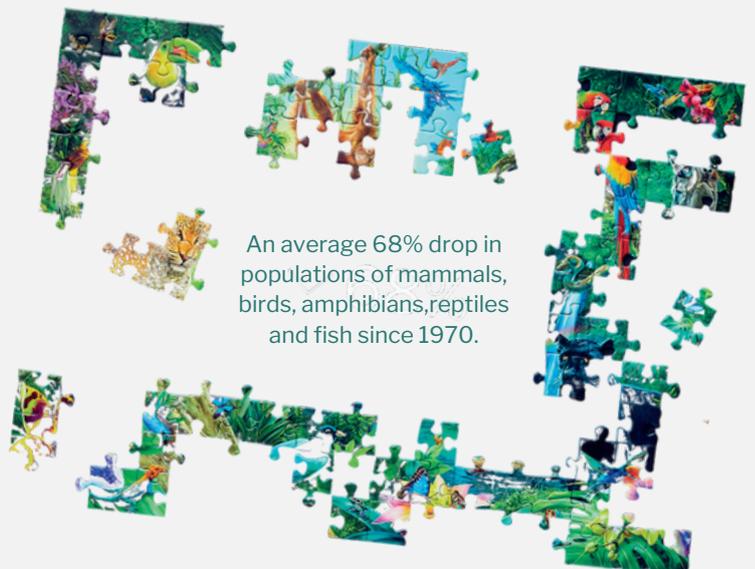
Analysis of the 2011-2020 Aichi Biodiversity Targets shows that none of the global biodiversity goals set by the UN Convention for Biological Diversity were achieved.

The Covid-19 pandemic has worsened the biodiversity crisis, mostly due to the collapse of tourism and subsequent loss of local livelihoods.

Diversity of life on Earth is clearly at high and increasing risk, with up to half of all species facing extinction by the end of this century.

Unless current trends are reversed, the biodiversity crisis will have devastating impacts on humanity, quite simply because our own survival relies upon the species we are driving to extinction. We are eroding the foundations of our economies, livelihoods, food security and quality of life.

This decade must see transformational change for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration if we are to address the biodiversity crisis.





Momentum for change

However, the situation is far from hopeless, and there are new commitments for biodiversity. At COP-26, over 100 global leaders committed to end deforestation by 2030. The UN 'Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework' has recommended to increase global protected area cover to 30% by 2030 and to focus on tropical forests.

And at the IUCN World Conservation Congress, over 1,500 representatives stressed the vital importance of tropical forests for biodiversity conservation and emphasized that reversing biodiversity loss is possible and we can and must do it.

There is clearly a momentum for change, with opportunities to deliver lasting impact at scale. To achieve global targets for biodiversity conservation, it is critical to implement large sustainable landscape-scale conservation programs that balance conservation with sustainable development.

New sources of finance available for sustaining biodiversity need to be developed - such as the carbon market and impact investing - to support biodiversity. There is also an urgent need for improved knowledge sharing and capacity development, with emphasis on supporting local partners.

However, there remains a chronic lack of funding to achieve these targets and fund these approaches.

People are the answer

The Hempel Foundation recognises that the biodiversity crisis is one of the most urgent global problems facing humanity today, and that biodiversity is not just about plants, animals, micro-organisms and their ecosystems - it is about people and our need for food, medicines, fresh water, and a clean and healthy environment in which to live.

Nature allows us to survive and thrive, and underpins our sustainable development.





The Hempel Foundation will support sustaining biodiversity in high-priority regions in the Atlantic Forests Hotspot, the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, Madagascar, and Indonesia. We focus on:

- Developing and scaling initiatives that significantly reduce deforestation and/or increase financial resources for high-biodiversity landscapes and their key biodiversity areas
- Developing global initiatives that increase the financial resources available for sustaining biodiversity management at scale
- Catalysing collaboration, knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising that mobilize and sustain efforts to sustain biodiversity



For the 2022-2024 period, we plan to allocate DKK 160 million (EUR 21,5 million) to this strategy.

Our vision

Tropical forests and their biodiversity are sustained for present and future generations.

Our mission

Through partnerships and with a catalytic approach, we support sustainable development by accelerating initiatives to reduce deforestation and increase the flow of financing to sustain the tropical forests with the highest biodiversity.

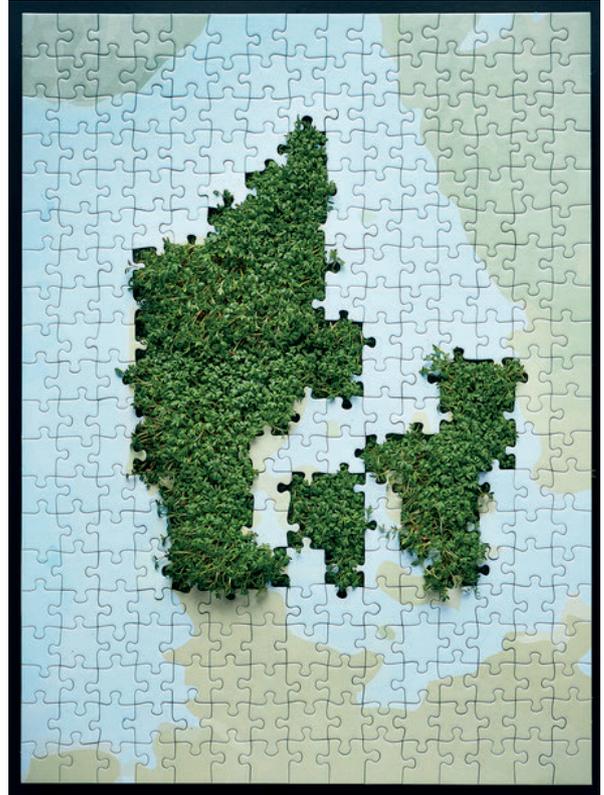
Our role

We aspire to be a capable and leading development partner who explores innovative partnerships and alliances, and whose operational excellence enables us to be a preferred foundation partner for collaboration within our thematic focus areas.



Our 2030 commitment

"By 2030 we will have contributed significantly towards sustaining biodiversity in at least 5 million hectares of the most important tropical forest - an area larger than the size of Denmark."



Collective efforts

Only through the collaborative efforts of all key stakeholders within and across countries will it be possible to significantly reduce tropical forest deforestation and subsequent biodiversity loss by 2030.

We believe our main contribution in reaching this goal is when our support and interventions become catalytic, generating a far larger impact beyond our direct reach.

But we also believe that our contributions should result in tangible, measurable and sustained conservation outcomes through the programs and projects we directly support.

Five million hectares by 2030

To inspire others and to provide a reach goal for our work, we have made this commitment to significantly contribute to conservation of at least five million hectares of the most important tropical forests by 2030 through conservation actions that enable the long-term sustainability of tropical forests and their biodiversity.

This commitment marks the scale of our ambition. We will be driven by quality and measurable impact, so we hold ourselves accountable not only for the area of tropical forest we support, but also for the results we help deliver in terms of reduced deforestation and biodiversity loss, improved human wellbeing indicators, increases in financial resources available for conservation, and other impact targets that we will define and track with high standards.

Unfolding our approach

Sustain key biodiversity areas



Increase financial resources



Strengthen collective efforts

1

Developing and scaling initiatives to reduce deforestation and/or increase financial resources in high-biodiversity landscapes'



Why

Tropical forests are the most diverse ecosystems on earth, containing over two thirds of all known species. At the current rate of deforestation, most tropical forests will be lost within a century. This would compromise biodiversity at a global scale and jeopardise human civilisation as we know it.

Landscape-scale biodiversity projects combine governance, development and financing to address the connected objectives of biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and human wellbeing.

Landscapes consist of natural core zones - usually key biodiversity areas - with adjacent buffer zones, which are connected to transformed areas such as agricultural land through ecosystem services, e.g., fresh water flows. They provide nature-based solutions to social challenges such as water security.

The component of a landscape program that usually receives least focus is sustainable financing, often due to the need for urgent support for ongoing biodiversity conservation. Yet sustainable financing actions are crucial to move conservation programs onto a pathway for long-term impact.

How

- We believe that to address the biodiversity crisis it is essential to reduce tropical forest loss, and that landscape conservation programs provide an appropriate scale for meaningful impact.
- We believe that for landscape conservation efforts to be impactful and sustained, they need to address the drivers of tropical forest loss and the issue of sustainable income generation.
- We believe that to maximise our impact we need to focus on the highest-priority regions globally for tropical forest biodiversity and, within those regions, to support the most important landscapes at a sufficiently high level and duration to ensure transformational and lasting change.
- We believe our focal regions and landscapes should be identified and prioritised based on criteria including biodiversity values, threat levels, remaining forest cover, governance and legislation, and other (climate and biodiversity) funding commitments.

Therefore

The Hempel Foundation will partner with organisations to support interventions that align with our core beliefs and have proven potential to sustain biodiversity at scale.

Based on our prioritisation criteria, we will focus on tropical forests in the Atlantic Forests Hotspot, the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot, Madagascar, and Indonesia.

We will support efforts to address drivers of deforestation in and around key biodiversity areas, and on catalysing new sources of sustainable finance to maintain activities in conservation landscapes.

Partners

We work in partnerships based on mutual trust, flexibility and a common commitment towards delivering high-impact results for biodiversity. We will proactively engage expert stakeholders to identify the landscapes where our support will have greatest impact, and then support NGOs, indigenous groups, communities and other partners to work together with a shared strategy for landscape conservation.

2

Developing initiatives to increase funding for conservation at scale



Why

Although the biodiversity crisis is now recognised as a global issue with devastating impacts on humanity, and that tropical forests are urgent priorities for conservation, it will still require significantly more funding than is currently available to address the crisis. If it is possible to demonstrate ways for biodiversity conservation to generate income, it would unlock vast new sources of revenues. Currently though, few examples exist - even for impact investing or climate finance - of scalable models for biodiversity conservation that provide financial returns.

Given the rapidly emerging economic markets and their enormous potential to help finance the biodiversity conservation sector, this is an opportune moment to support approaches that can catalyse new sources of revenue to address the biodiversity crisis at scale.

How

- We believe it is possible for tropical forest conservation to generate economic returns, thereby making sustaining biodiversity a viable economic model for nations who are looking to sustain their nature while simultaneously growing their economy.
- We believe there are vast sources of global finance that would support conservation efforts at the scale needed to address the biodiversity crisis, if models are created to demonstrate that it is possible to generate revenues from sustaining biodiversity.
- We believe models for activities that could generate income from sustaining biodiversity will include forest carbon projects, nature based solutions, payments for ecosystem services, blockchain and other digital finance solutions, and impact investments.
- We believe this is a critical time, with emerging economic opportunities that could have catalytic impact for biodiversity conservation, and that philanthropy will play an important upfront role in unlocking those new revenue streams.

Therefore

The Hempel Foundation will work with partners to identify and support new approaches that could leverage significant additional sources of revenue to help address the global biodiversity crisis.

We will explore financing mechanisms, models and other approaches that have the potential for measurable biodiversity impacts and that can be replicated to achieve impact at scale. When possible, we will focus the application of these approaches on regions we have prioritised for our landscape conservation activities, to further leverage our strategic impact.

Partners

The organisations we will work with range from global INGOs to large or medium-sized NGOs based in the countries where we work. We also actively encourage collaborations that include partners from a wide range of sectors, such as the corporate and financial sectors, to inspire innovative approaches.



3

Catalysing collaboration, knowledge sharing and awareness-raising that mobilise and sustain efforts to conserve biodiversity



Why

People are at the heart of all biodiversity conservation programs. It is well documented that conservation effectiveness is dramatically improved by the sharing of knowledge, yet there are surprisingly few opportunities for exchanges of lessons learned and best practices between conservation practitioners, or support for ongoing grassroots training and capacity development.

There is a large body of global expertise, scientific literature, and information that is designed to guide and improve biodiversity conservation approaches. Yet many conservation practitioners around the world are either unaware of the latest science and trainings, or are unable to access them. Without opportunities to share lessons learned from successes and failures, and to collaborate across organisations and geographies, many activities and investments in biodiversity conservation will continue to be targeted at less effective approaches that fail to achieve their potential impact.

It is therefore important to improve shared learning because it provides enabling conditions for biodiversity conservation partners to implement the best approaches on the ground, to learn from real-world successes and failures, and to become even more effective and impactful in their work.

How

- We believe the collective efforts of key stakeholders within and across countries are necessary to significantly improve the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation.
- We believe that collective efforts are enhanced through knowledge sharing, awareness-raising, and creating networks to bring different competencies together to seek solutions.
- We believe that convening knowledge-sharing discussions can be catalytic for strengthened coordination and improved efforts to combat biodiversity loss.
- We believe that providing capacity development opportunities can significantly improve and sustain the effectiveness of conservation approaches.

Therefore

The Hempel Foundation will work with expert partners to identify gaps and opportunities to convene and facilitate networks, conferences and other activities to generate new knowledge, enable sharing of knowledge and lessons-learned, and raise awareness of failures and best practices.

Through these activities, we aim to be a catalyst for effective partnerships and practices that will sustain biodiversity for current and future generations.

Photo credits

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Visualisations

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