

RESTORING THREATENED HABITATS AND SPECIES



We're working to halt the loss of habitats and restore natural life-support systems for people and species in some of the world's most special places.

2020-21 TARGET

We'll support communities across the Amazon region and advocate internationally to prevent damaging trade and environmental policy decisions and protect the Amazon rainforest.

We know if we lose the Amazon, we lose the fight against climate change. So it's a priority for WWF to influence trade and environmental policy decisions that affect the Amazon, and to stand in support of indigenous peoples and local communities.

This year the political, social and economic situation across the Amazon continued to increase the threats to this vitally important biome – most notably in Brazil where deforestation and fire rates were at a 12-year high, and where huge areas of land are being converted for agriculture and farming. Indigenous peoples here faced growing challenges to their territories, livelihoods and rights; Covid and forest fires continued to pose a huge challenge for Amazon communities.

We and the WWF network raised emergency funding and worked with 70 indigenous groups, delivering more than 7,000 pieces of equipment to combat fires and detect deforestation.

In Brazil's Rondônia and Acre states, we supported local NGOs and indigenous groups to strengthen monitoring and defence of their rainforest territories from the growing threat of illegal land grabs, logging and mining.

In Brazil, our advocacy helped overturn parliamentary vetoes against a new law that could have undermined payments for environmental services. And for the time being we have avoided the 'land-grabbing' bill being approved by the Federal Senate.

In China, a prime and growing market for Brazilian soy and beef, our advocacy led to breakthroughs including China's first set of guiding principles and standards for green procurement in its meat industry. Ten private sector enterprises have committed to practise green procurement.

And in the UK, we've influenced the UK's Environment Bill to include due diligence on imports that may contribute to Amazon deforestation.

2020-21 TARGET

We'll expand and scale up our support for major integrated landscape and seascape programmes, to set them on the road to being conserved, restored, connected and climate resilient.

Our work covers large areas of land and sea across Africa, Asia and Latin America, as well as closer to home. The following is a small selection of our achievements during the past year.

Boosting community forest management, Tanzania

In east Africa's Ruvuma landscape, we supported work to establish additional areas under better protection through community management in miombo woodlands – an ecosystem that provides important habitats for wildlife including elephants, leopards and lions. More than 100 sq km were added in Tanzania.

Climate change means fires are happening in this region more often, so we supported the creation of a real-time fire information management system that uses satellite imagery and alerts authorities and communities about fires.

Regenerating organically, India

In the Central Indian Landscape, we supported local communities who live in critical wildlife corridors – in areas that are home to around 800 tigers – to improve their livelihoods in sustainable ways, and to maintain connectivity between protected areas. Our support included helping them adopt organic practices that can regenerate the land. We worked with traditional honey collectors to use methods that will avoid accidental forest fires and will help them receive a better price. We also worked with local communities to help map their natural resources, and we supported their rights to manage and use those areas.



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Restoring seagrass, UK

In Dale Bay, Pembrokeshire, with our partners we planted a further 450,000 seagrass seeds, meeting our target of planting two hectares of this important habitat. This demonstrated the feasibility of our restoration model. Seagrass provides a key nursery for marine species, reduces coastal erosion, sequesters carbon and helps remove pollutants. Our thanks to people from the local community who helped design and implement the project and have volunteered more than 4,500 hours of their time since the project started in 2019.

2020-21 TARGET

We'll work together with communities who live alongside wildlife, to develop secure and sustainable livelihoods – during and post-pandemic.

Communities are at the heart of our work. We're committed to ensuring their rights are respected, and supporting their ongoing efforts to live sustainably with nature. And we recognise the very significant contributions indigenous peoples have made to ensure the conservation of nature.

The rising demand for space and encroachment into wildlife-rich habitats is leading to more interaction between people, livestock and wildlife. The resulting risk of conflict, diseases and scarcity of natural resources imperils people's livelihoods, it jeopardises economic development, and it threatens habitats and wildlife.

This situation has been compounded by Covid, as communities face increased economic hardship and rely even more on natural resources. This year we worked with local communities to help them overcome some of these challenges.

In Kenya, working with the Mara Predator Conservation Programme we helped fund predator-proof livestock enclosures that have protected 4,600 cattle from night attacks. And on maize farms around the Maasai Mara, where we previously supported building fences to deter elephants, this year almost all crop raids were eliminated and harvests nearly doubled.

In the Khata wildlife corridor in Nepal, communities supported by WWF planted thorny plants and crops such as chillies and lemons which are unpalatable to wildlife and act as a 'bio-fences'. This helped reduce crop damage and it provides vital income.



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We worked with villagers and local politicians in Namakambale Ward in Tanzania to ensure the community prioritises monitoring and auditing of their annual plans for community-based forest management.

We worked with colleagues in Colombia to support indigenous groups' governance of the Inírída Ramsar site. Findings from biological surveys will help improve sustainable management of the Inírída river and protection of species including river dolphins.

We also worked with local communities to explore ways to support sustainable livelihoods post-pandemic. As part of our Beyond Tourism initiative, we're piloting a Certified Gorilla Friendly™ project with 10 local businesses around Volcanoes National Park (Rwanda) and Bwindi Mgahinga Conservation Area (Uganda).

Through this work we've helped achieve positive outcomes for wildlife as well, including increases in the populations of wild tigers in Nepal and India, and no rhinos being poached in Kenya for the first time in more than 20 years.

OUR 2021-22 PRIORITIES WILL INCLUDE

In the Amazon, we'll continue to build partnerships and work with community-led initiatives to rehabilitate and restore nature and biodiversity.

We'll launch our Land for Life programme across southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, securing wildlife habitats and increasing benefits to local people.

Through partnerships, we'll continue to build UK-based projects and programmes – both land and sea – that respond to the triple challenge of feeding a growing population, tackling climate change and restoring nature.

We'll develop plans to scale up work in at least two other international landscapes or seascapes to address nature, climate and sustainable development challenges.