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.

2022-23 TARGET

In Brazil, we'll focus on stopping legislation that harms the Amazon and implementing a tool to help tackle illegality in gold mining supply chains, while supporting the rights and territorial protection of Indigenous people and local communities. In Colombia and Peru, we'll facilitate regenerative farming and restoration in deforestation hotspots.

We know if we lose the Amazon, we lose the fight against climate change. So, for WWF it's an absolute priority to help protect this vital region and support its Indigenous peoples and local communities.

This year we produced a scientific briefing – *Risking the* Amazon – which showed how close the Amazon is to irreversible tipping points. It helped us make a powerful case at the UN climate summit, COP27, for immediate action to avert the tipping points.

Despite a more environmentally concerned government in Brazil since January, and a 34% reduction in deforestation during the following six months, damaging packages of proposed legislation including weakening of Indigenous land rights still persist and deforestation rates remain unsustainably high. This year we've worked closely with our colleagues in Brazil and funded their advocacy efforts and campaigns to counter these legislative threats. A key breakthrough for us was Brazil's re-establishment of the National Environment Council, which is critical for ensuring environment and nature are considered in national policies and budgets.

WWF, the University of São Paulo and the NGO Igarape developed a transparency and traceability platform to identify where there is the risk of illegal gold entering the supply chain. The president of Brazil's Central Bank recommended government agencies should adopt the platform. Another critical step towards reducing illegality in the supply chain was Brazil's Supreme Court's ruling to suspend the 'presumption of legality and good faith' in the gold trade; we provided evidence for this.

In Peru, we continued our two-year UK government funded we successfully restored or protected more than 84 hectares partnership to promote restorative cattle ranching methods of wildflower habitat across numerous sites in these regions. in a deforestation hotspot in Madre de Dios. We trained 349 And through the Wild Ingleborough project we launched farmers in natural soil restoration methods. It's reducing last year in Yorkshire we planted sphagnum moss and a the need for agrochemicals and, critically, will curb the further 2,350 trees, increasing the area under restoration by loss of additional forest as soil quality in the pastures is a further 60 hectares – thanks in part to more than 4,000 maintained for longer. We're also planting native trees that volunteering hours. support soil and water conservation, sequester carbon and reconnect patches of forest. Neighbouring farmers who have We also provided the means for deprived communities to seen the transformation in pasture quality are now using the access nature, and shared and supported learning in schools. same techniques - a vital step towards scaling up this work.

In Colombia, our work on nature-friendly beef production led to an exchange of learning between the main beef buyer in Colombia, Grupo Exito, and our Tesco partnership, including sharing ways supermarkets can improve their environmental performance and supply chain management.

2022-23 TARGET

We'll develop an integrated vision for land and seascapes in Pembrokeshire and Norfolk, created with the local communities, that responds to the triple challenge of feeding a growing population, tackling climate change and restoring nature.

In the UK, our vision is that by 2030, UK land, rivers and seas – and the way they are being used – will be transformed to ensure nature is recovering, and that they'll be producing food sustainably and helping to meet net-zero targets. We'll do this with the participation of local people, in ways that benefit them.

In the past year we developed a framework (a 'wholescape' approach) that will enable us to test how best to achieve this in practice, building on our current work on land, rivers and the sea.

The barriers to achieving our vision are complex and interrelated, so our framework allows us to assess trade-offs as well as win-wins. We've consulted many key partners as well as colleagues across WWF to ensure the wholescape concept has landed well and aligns with the thinking of other UK-based organisations, notably the British Ecological Society.

We began pilot projects in Norfolk, Pembrokeshire and the Firth of Forth: we launched studies in these locations to provide quantitative and qualitative data and engaged with the many stakeholders to build on existing initiatives and help bring them together.

This year we scaled up our seagrass restoration programme, with new projects in north Wales, Hampshire and the Firth of Forth. Seedlings are already developing well from initial seed planting.

On land, our programme focuses on key food-producing areas in Norfolk, Leicestershire and the Wye and Usk region, in recognition that 70% of land in the UK is used for agriculture and that this is a major driver of nature decline. This work has been supported by our partners Aviva, Tesco and the Reckitt brands Air Wick and Finish. During the year

2022-23 TARGET

In southern Kenya and northern Tanzania, we'll work with local partners, communities and regional decision makers to facilitate effective governance, cooperation and land-management, the mitigation of human-wildlife conflict, and nature-based livelihoods.

This was the fourth year of our ambitious, large-scale programme to maintain a healthy, connected landscape for wildlife, people and their livelihoods across southern Kenya and northern Tanzania. It's an important area for wildlife including elephants and lions that share the landscape outside formal protected areas with local communities. We're working with partners and local communities to strengthen the governance and management of natural resources critical for wildlife and people to coexist and thrive.

This year, we've facilitated effective governance and supported improved cooperation and land management at a local level. We supported the Narok County government in Kenya to develop and ratify a land-use plan that provides a blueprint for the local government to guide responsible and sustainable development across 18,000 sq km - almost the entire Mau-Mara landscape. With the full participation of Community Forest Associations and the chief conservator of forests in Kenya, we supported the development of plans that provide a framework for communities to manage and protect 29,200 hectares of forests in the upper catchments of the Mara river. And we helped expand the area of rangelands under improved management by 33,500 hectares by supporting community-run conservancies around Tsavo National Park.

The threat of wildlife causing injury or death to livestock and local people, or destroying crops, makes human-wildlife conflict an ongoing challenge across this landscape. This year, thanks to UK Aid Match from the UK government, we funded work to construct 20 more enclosures and 179 living walls to keep livestock safe from predators, along with more than 700 solar flashing 'lion lights' to deter predators. The living walls, developed by African People & Wildlife, will benefit more than 2,500 people and protect 29,700 livestock animals. Searches by human-wildlife coexistence officers we support in Tanzania prevented the potential predation of almost US\$650,000 worth of livestock.

We've also supported various nature-based livelihood enterprises in local communities. For example, we provided seeds and facilitated climate-smart training for 441 farmers to establish 57 hectares of sunflowers on existing farmland. Sunflowers are a good, drought-resistant crop choice for farmers in Tanzania, and have lower incidences of crop damage by large herbivores such as elephants.

2022-23 TARGET

We'll continue to work with governments and local communities to support the recovery of wild tiger populations. We'll ensure governments make meaningful commitments for tiger conservation over the next 12 years, and strengthen international efforts to reduce illegal wildlife trade.

The lunar year of the tiger, which ended in January 2023, marked a pivotal phase in the ambition to restore wild tiger populations.

During the previous year of the tiger in 2010, their numbers were at an all-time low of as few as 3,200. Twelve years on, in 2022, a global assessment by the IUCN Red List - which we inputted into - indicated numbers had risen to around 4,500. While the picture varies hugely between tiger range countries, this denotes a rare and hard-fought conservation success story, with evidence growing that the global decline in these critically endangered big cats has finally been reversed.

There have been notable increases in Bhutan, India and Nepal. The results of national surveys we supported in Nepal and India were announced during the year. Nepal's wild tiger population has more than doubled since 2009 - from estimates of 121 to 355. In India, the population has risen by more than 600 since 2018, to 3,682. These heartening successes are thanks to strong support and action by local communities living near tigers, and many years of commitment and effort from the respective governments, from us and from other organisations.

The gains are fragile and tigers remain the world's most threatened big cat species. Those that survive are restricted to around 5% of their former range, where they face continued poaching driven by demand for, and illegal trade in, tiger parts and their derivatives, as well as the loss of important prey species.

But the 2022 year of the tiger inspired renewed commitment and we were central to a vision, developed together with other organisations, to secure a viable future for the tiger. This agreed the conservation efforts for the next 12 years, including restoration of tiger habitat in both current and former tiger range countries.

Throughout the year we worked with partners to advocate for nations to strengthen the renewals of their commitments for the next 12 years. We also worked with tiger conservation partners to develop the Tackling Tiger Trafficking Framework. This pulls together resources and information to provide tiger range and other countries with guidance to implement a comprehensive and effective approach to addressing tiger trafficking.

