

**Session: Protecting the planet and building resilience**

*Pursuing policies, investments and innovation to address disaster risk reduction and protect the planet from degradation*

Current total: 2225 words

**1. Systems transformation**

What are the fundamental systems transformations needed to halt nature degradation, reverse loss and manage risk, while eradicating poverty, ensuring food security for a growing population, securing livelihoods and promoting resilience?

685 words

Calls for transformation to more environmentally sustainable economic development models that recognise the importance of ecosystems to economic development have been growing since the concept of green economy arose at Rio+20 and was a key pathway to change highlighted in the recent Global Assessment on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.<sup>1</sup> But the stocktake in the Global Green Barometer 2020 concluded that while there are some signs of deeper reform, the brown economy still reigns. Mainstream economic analysis which shapes public policy and private investment still fails to account for nature.<sup>2</sup> Progress on relevant Aichi targets (e.g. 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2) has also been poor.<sup>3</sup>

Complete reform of economic and financial systems and disruption of business-as-usual approaches are required to value, protect, restore and build natural ecosystems as the foundation for sustainable socio-economic development. Five principles have been proposed to guide transformation of economic systems, centred around well-being, justice, planetary boundaries, efficiency and sufficiency and good

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<sup>1</sup> IPBES. 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondízio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.  
[https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/inline/files/ipbes\\_global\\_assessment\\_report\\_summary\\_for\\_policymakers.pdf](https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/inline/files/ipbes_global_assessment_report_summary_for_policymakers.pdf). Accessed on 11 May 2020.

<sup>2</sup> Green Economy Coalition. 2020. The global transition to green and fair economies: 10 years in. Green Economy Coalition, London. <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/news-analysis/green-economy-global-barometer-2020>. Accessed on 10 May 2020.

<sup>3</sup> IPBES. 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondízio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razzaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.  
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governance.<sup>4</sup> Economic and financial reform requirements to support protection and restoration of natural capital for socio-economic resilience include:

- Using natural capital accounting approaches
- Applying innovative budget/ climate finance tools such as climate budget tagging<sup>5</sup>
- Removing harmful subsidies (e.g. fossil fuels) and instead subsidising greening actions or green sectors
- Use of environmental degradation/pollution taxes and applying the polluter pay principle in policies
- Boosting spending (public funding) on ecosystem conservation and restoration
- Supporting green investment (e.g. public procurement standards, use of safeguards, environmental conditions/standards) and penalising investment in brown/polluting industries
- Pricing carbon and using a carbon tax or trading scheme (carbon markets) to make emitters pay
- Limiting consumption of natural resources to remain within planetary boundaries
- Shifting beyond standard economic indicators such as gross domestic product (GDP) to include those able to capture more holistic, long-term views of economics and quality of life

Reforming economic governance systems will also necessitate a new social compact for participatory economic decision-making with transparency and accountability. Dialogue with public, private and civil society actors will need to focus on ensuring that policies promote economic empowerment with equitable distribution of opportunity and outcome, addressing multi-dimensional poverty, inequities and injustice. People-centred inclusive economic development should be premised on protecting and building natural capital to create wealth and build resilience that serve the interests of all current and future global citizens.

## **2. Specific actions to drive transformation**

Please describe 2-3 specific, promising actions at different levels that can drive these systems transformations. These actions could relate for instance to scaling up the use of nature-based solutions, sustainable consumption and production, or other approaches. How have these actions helped (or how *could* they help) break down siloes, support the systemic management of risk, and trigger positive changes in society? How can co-benefits between actions be maximized and the risk in trade-offs stemming from these actions (i.e. negative impacts on other aspects of the 2030 Agenda) managed?

431 words

Community-based and ecosystem-based approaches to adaptation and disaster risk reduction should be used for building broader ecological, social and economic resilience at the local level. Tools and methods for participatory vulnerability assessments can be adapted to incorporate a broader understanding of risks to livelihood assets. Local stakeholders engage in dialogues to develop consensus on priorities for action, focusing on nature-based solutions that protect and restore ecosystems. Integrated and participatory decision-making at the local level will enable assessments of trade-offs and

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<sup>4</sup> Partners for Inclusive Green Economy. n.d. Principles, priorities and pathways for inclusive green economies: Economic transformation to deliver the SDGs. <https://www.greeneconomycoalition.org/assets/reports/GEC-Reports/Principles-priorities-pathways-inclusive-green-economies-web.pdf>. Accessed on 10 May 2020.

<sup>5</sup> Bain, N., Nguyen, L. and K. Boboyan. 2019. Climate Change – knowing what you spend: A guidance note for Governments to track climate finance in their budgets. United Nations Development Programme. <https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/planet/climate-change/RBAP-DG-2019-Climate-Budget-Tagging-Guidance-Note.pdf>. Accessed on 10 May 2020.

decisions that address inequity and protect those most vulnerable. Stakeholder commitment to action is built. Financial support should be provided to CSOs, resource user groups, local government, MSMEs, etc. to undertake practical actions. Addressing livelihood needs is key and the response should build resilience of local community MSMEs, especially green-blue enterprises dependent on nature, to climate and other risks. Understanding inter-linked risks and cascading impacts is key to an integrated and comprehensive approach to building local resilience and delivering co-benefits across the SDGs.

At the national and regional levels, integrated landscape and seascape management needs to be strengthened, focusing on the provision of ecosystem services and ecological connectivity. This should include, but go beyond, networks of protected areas and use land use and marine spatial planning to prioritise delivery of ecological functions. Ecosystem restoration and remediation will be needed on state and private lands. Management should focus on building resilient social and ecological systems in the face of uncertainty and complexity, using a mix of policies and instruments that include conservation, sustainable use and restoration of biodiversity alongside sustainable production systems and integration of green infrastructure.<sup>6</sup> Participatory and cross-sectoral management approaches should particularly include local communities and indigenous peoples. These approaches should use local knowledge and practice deliberate learning, taking into account the impact of climate change and other risks. National recognition of land tenure, access and resource rights is a key requirement for effective co-management arrangements with local communities.

3. ***Means of implementation and the global partnership for development (SDG 17):***

Achieving the 2030 Agenda relies on a combination of means of implementation to catalyse action and engagement, harness synergies and reduce tradeoffs. Please discuss the means of implementation, including finance, partnerships, and capacity building, needed to make the necessary transformations. How can science, technology and innovation (STI), including social innovation and local and indigenous knowledge, be mobilized to advance these transformations?

690 words

Civil society organisations (CSOs) at the regional, national and local levels are well placed to serve as partners to support governments, private sector and regional and international agencies.

Though strengthened partnerships, CSO can play enhanced roles as:

- ***Trusted local partners for delivery of projects*** - CSOs can play a key role in localising the SDGs to effectively meet local needs and engage target groups to deliver long-term programmes that go beyond political cycles and benefit the most vulnerable and marginalised.
- ***Co-implementors at the regional, national and sectoral levels*** - Integrated and participatory governance of landscapes and seascapes requires mobilisation of all actors. Development of

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<sup>6</sup> IPBES. 2019. Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. S. Díaz, J. Settele, E. S. Brondízio E.S., H. T. Ngo, M. Guèze, J. Agard, A. Arneth, P. Balvanera, K. A. Brauman, S. H. M. Butchart, K. M. A. Chan, L. A. Garibaldi, K. Ichii, J. Liu, S. M. Subramanian, G. F. Midgley, P. Miloslavich, Z. Molnár, D. Obura, A. Pfaff, S. Polasky, A. Purvis, J. Razaque, B. Reyers, R. Roy Chowdhury, Y. J. Shin, I. J. Visseren-Hamakers, K. J. Willis, and C. N. Zayas (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany.

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civil society sub-plans can be used to specify and focus attention to where CSOs can contribute to delivery. The People Managing Oceans: Civil Society Action Programme for the Sustainable Management of the Shared Living Marine Resource of the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems<sup>7</sup> provides a useful model for how interactive governance can be facilitated. The Civil Society Agenda developed by CSOs in Saint Lucia is another model at the national/sectoral level.<sup>8</sup>

- **Innovators** - With the freedom to think outside the box, and a focus on using local and traditional knowledge, CSOs have piloted innovative approaches that can be scaled out and institutionalised in policies and programmes. Capturing innovations by CSOs and facilitating knowledge sharing can inspire and catalyse actions by others.
- **Mobilisers and managers of resources** - CSOs have the potential to serve as accredited and executing agencies for global funds. For example, at the national level the Protected Areas Conservation Trust in Belize is the first Caribbean CSO to become a national accredited entity for the Adaptation Fund and the Green Climate Fund (GCF). At the regional level, the Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (CANARI) is serving as the executing agency for a seven-country GCF project to build readiness of Caribbean CSOs to engage in climate action and is executing partner on several Global Environment Fund projects. CANARI also serves as an intermediary to channel funds, for example from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, to national and local CSOs in a way that is cost-effective and sustainable over the long term, leveraging 30 years of relationships and experience across the Caribbean.
- **Advocates to raise awareness and commitment to climate policies and action** - CSOs catalyse social movements. For example, the #1.5stostayalive campaign by SIDS was spearheaded by Panos Caribbean and helped to get global commitment and leverage additional technical assistance and funding for SIDS.

Civil society needs capacity building, to facilitate these roles.

- **Technical capacity building** must be accompanied by **organisational strengthening** of CSOs so that they are strong, effective and sustainable.
- **National legal, fiscal and funding frameworks** need to be appropriate and supportive to CSOs, without unduly burdensome or restrictive requirements. There are recent concerns about new restrictions on legitimate activities of CSOs due to misinterpretation and misuse by national regulators of the global Financial Action Task Force Recommendation 8.<sup>9</sup>
- **Financing** to CSOs should facilitate long-term approaches (core and programmatic funding rather than solely project-based), flexibility in delivering impact (rather than a narrow focus on prescribed activities and deliverables) and support innovation (encouraging experimentation and risk-taking). Funding should support CSO coalitions and networks and encourage knowledge sharing.
- **Mechanisms** should be created or strengthened to enable effective voice of civil society in governance and spaces for the development of meaningful partnerships. Co-management agreements are one model that can be more widely used to devolve specific responsibilities under partnerships.
- **Spaces** should be created at the local, national or regional level for CSOs to come together to create civil society coalitions and joint action plans and analyses on the SDGs. The SDGs Catalysts Network of 20 leading CSOs in Trinidad and Tobago, which led and catalysed wider

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<sup>7</sup> <https://clmeplus.org/app/uploads/2019/12/CSAP-booklet-english.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> <https://canari.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/CANARISLUAgendadraft4.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://fatfplatform.org/civil-society-concerns/>

engagement of CSOs across all sectors in the country, is one model. The Caribbean Civil Society SDGs Knowledge Platform<sup>10</sup> is an online space promoting and enhancing civil society's role in development, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. A national civil society dialogue was held and a shadow report spotlighting Trinidad and Tobago's progress with implementation of SDG 13 on climate was developed.

#### 4. *Covid-19 crisis*

What does the Covid-19 crisis reveal about the human-nature relationship and systemic risk creation? How can nature-based solutions contribute to a post-COVID-19 economic and social recovery that is more sustainable, equitable and resilient? What immediate and medium-term steps are needed to **ensure that the post-COVID-19 economic and social recovery is sustainable, equitable and resilient**. How can we redirect financial flows and direct recovery efforts to create better outcomes for people, prosperity and planet?

#### 419 words

The disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on the poor and other vulnerable groups has already been recognised. This demands responses that not only provide immediate relief and social protection but also provide decent and fair economic opportunities in the medium and longer term. Directing financial flows to supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) is a key pathway for transformation to more equitable, green, and resilient economies that deliver the SDGs. Post-Covid-19 stimulus packages have the potential to catalyse the transformation that is so urgently needed or lock us into a global development pathway that destroys natural capital and exceeds environmental limits, resulting in widening socio-economic inequality and vulnerability.

The potential of MSMEs to deliver across the SDGs has already been emphasised.<sup>11</sup> A focus on MSMEs in Covid-19 responses can reach large numbers of the poor and vulnerable and put focus on sustainable use of natural capital at a time when urgent needs may drive unrestrained exploitation. Responses should support/require triple-bottom line business models and highlight new business opportunities.

To unleash the potential of MSMEs to innovate, replicate and scale local solutions to protect the planet and build resilience, current barriers must be addressed. The World Bank estimated a \$4.5 trillion financing gap for MSMEs for emerging markets and developing economies only, representing the unmet financing needs of 21 million enterprises.<sup>12</sup> Growth of MSMEs is also hindered by restricted access to technology and markets. Entrepreneurs are not aware of or weakly connected to technical support service providers. Policies and regulations are inadequate, for example fiscal incentives are lacking and taxation regimes are inappropriate. Provisions for social enterprises as a unique model are sometimes completely lacking. There is limited support to help MSMEs become competitive and to innovate to enhance productivity, market access, etc.

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<sup>10</sup> <https://hub.canari.org/sdg/>

<sup>11</sup> UNDESA. n.d. Micro-, Small, and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) and their role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25851MSMEs\\_and\\_SDGs\\_Final3120.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25851MSMEs_and_SDGs_Final3120.pdf) Accessed on 10 May 2020.

<sup>12</sup> World Bank Group. 2020. Capital Markets and SMEs in Emerging Markets and Developing Economies: Can They Go the Distance? World Bank, Washington, D.C. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33373> Accessed on 10 May 2020

Financial flows, technical support, and policy reform must be directed at building a more enabling environment for MSMEs, particularly those that sustainably use, protect and restore ecosystems and mitigate against negative impacts from other activities. MSMEs will need to transform their business models to deliver triple-bottom line co-benefits (economic, environmental and social). There are many positive examples and the focus can be on sharing knowledge, building and leveraging partnerships and institutionalising approaches to achieve scale.