State of Finance for Nature 2026
Key Messages

The State of Finance for Nature 2026 shows that the private sector is still overwhelmingly financing nature destruction instead of working with nature, whilst governments are facing fiscal constraints to finance the protection of nature. It offers a data-driven roadmap for policymakers, business leaders, financiers and civil society on how to invest in Nature-based Solutions (NbS) and begin the 'Big Nature Turnaround' to increase private capital flows towards a future nature-positive economy.

Top-line messages

- The 30:1 ratio in favour of nature destructive investments is fuelling the triple-planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution
    - The world spends US$ 220 billions to protect nature while US$ 7.3 trillions are actually destroying it.
    - Most of the US$ 7.3 trillion spent per year in nature-negative money is coming from private sectors, yet 90% of investment to protect and restore nature is coming from public funds - with just 10% coming from private sources.
- International public finance was 22% higher than in 2022, and 55% higher than in 2015.
- By phasing out investments in nature-negative business activities and scaling up nature-positive ones, we can power a nature transition economy.
- Nature-related opportunities go beyond protection and restoration—they exist across all sectors of the economy, including food, construction, utilities, extractives, apparel, and more.

The report by the numbers
How is nature destruction being financed?

- In 2023, US$ 7.3 trillion flowed into nature-negative activities.
    - US$ 4.9 trillion came from private investments in just a few high-impact sectors: utilities, industrials, energy and basic materials.
    - US$ 2.4 trillion was spent on harmful subsidies: fossil fuels, agriculture, water use.
    - The report breaks down these numbers.

- In the fiscal year 2023, only US$ 220 billion has supported NbS.
    - US$ 197 billion came from public spending (5% increase from 2022)
        - US$ 190 billions of this was spent domestically.
        - Spending on biodiversity and landscape protection rose by 11%.
        - Lower support for sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries.
        - International public finance for NbS was 22% higher than in 2022, 55% above 2015.

    - US$ 23 billion from the private sector – but there is potential for significant increase if governments set the right economic incentives.

Top recommendations from the report

Financing nature restoration:

- NbS investment must rise 2.5 times to US$ 571 billion per year by 2030 to meet the goals of global agreements, including the CBD, UNFCCC, and UNCCD.
- Simultaneously, we need to turn around the huge amounts invested in activities with direct nature negative impacts.
- This means reforming and repurposing private and public capital flows: the most powerful tool to shift markets toward sustainability, delivering strong returns, resilience, and regulatory alignment for the private sector.

How do we finance the Big Nature Turnaround

We need a framework for public and private sectors to sequence reforms and guide the Big Nature Turnaround.

- The report outlines two necessary simultaneous transformations:
    - Phasing out harmful subsidies and destructive investments.
    - Scaling up NbS and nature-positive investment across the supply chain.
    - NbS are most effective when they are grounded in local leadership and responsive to local ecological, cultural, and social contexts.
- The report provides a roadmap for the public sector:
    - Align public budgets with biodiversity, climate, and land-use goals.
    - Mobilising private finance and sectors for long-term value creation.
    - Redirecting harmful subsidies to nature-positive investments.
    - Integrating NbS into fiscal and policy frameworks.
- The report provides a roadmap for the private sector:
    - Opportunity to unlock long-term value, strengthen resilience, and align with disclosure frameworks (e.g., over 700 adopters of the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures – TNFD with US$ 20 trillion Assets Under Management).
    - Emerging market opportunities: regenerative agriculture, sustainable forestry, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity credits and carbon offsets, nature-linked bonds, and certified supply chains.
    - Identifying opportunities for investments that can reduce pressure on nature across all sectors of the real economy; food system, buildings and construction, utilities, extractives, apparel and other sectors.
    - A new social and economic contract to achieve the ‘trillion-dollar nature transition economy’ requires working with nature instead of against it
    - The report provides examples of measures already applied around the world: Greening urban areas to counter heat-island effects and improving liveability for citizens; embedding nature in road and energy infrastructure (e.g. solar farms and natural habitat co-located); scaling up sustainable (deforestation-free) supply chains, debt-for-nature swaps and other opportunities).