



#InvestInNature

Born Free Foundation and Born Free USA response to covid-19:

THE GLOBAL NATURE RECOVERY INVESTMENT INITIATIVE

www.gorgegen.co.uk

WHAT IS THE CHALLENGE?

A mass extinction event is well under way with one million species threatened with extinction, many within decades. Unprecedented levels of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation are severely altering the natural fabric of the Earth's biosphere. Anthropocentric drivers include changes in land and sea use and direct overexploitation of wildlife. These are exacerbated by human population growth; urbanisation and associated infrastructure development; increasing demand for wildlife and wildlife products; inadequate legislation and law enforcement; political lethargy and intransigence; and the burden of international debt. The impacts of these drivers and their sub-drivers are jeopardising ecosystem viability; human security; public health; livelihoods; species survival; and individual animal welfare. They undermine our capacity to address and mitigate climate change and our ability to ensure the sustainability and resilience of life on Earth for future generations. Transformative changes to the way we interact with and steward nature and how we resource and invest in its protection and recovery are now a paramount, urgent global priority.

WHAT IS THE VISION?

In the wake of the covid-19 pandemic, it is imperative that we develop and implement the transformative changes needed to protect people and wildlife; halt and reverse biodiversity loss and wildlife overexploitation; and deliver enhanced ecosystem viability and services alongside climate change mitigation, public and animal health, sustainable livelihoods, and food and societal security.

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION?

The Global Nature Recovery Investment Initiative (GNRII) will explore opportunities to mainstream biodiversity protection and animal welfare across all sectors and government departments; to reform and realign the way it is financed by embedding finance and investment mechanisms to deliver sustainable, healthy, enduring ecosystems and biodiversity for the long term.

Through this initiative, Born Free will advocate for the adoption of strong international and national commitments to:

- Place public health, food and water security, poverty alleviation, biodiversity protection, and healthy ecosystems on an equal standing politically, financially, and socially
- Transform the distribution of global resources to fund biodiversity protection
- Halt and reverse biodiversity loss
- Expand and strengthen protected area integrity
- End commercial wildlife exploitation and curb trade
- Develop and deliver alternative livelihoods and food sources for those who currently rely on the exploitation of wild animals and plants for their survival
- Strengthen international and regional wildlife law enforcement
- Incorporate animal welfare considerations into nature recovery programmes.

The initiative will promote actions in the field, combined with international commitments to place nature recovery as a central tenet of negotiations for the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and as a key factor in efforts to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Investment in Nature must be placed on an equal footing with other global investment priorities such as development, education, and defence.