



State of Finance for Nature Report

Why in News

The UN report, titled **State of Finance for Nature**, analyzes the investment flow in **nature-based solutions (NbS)** and identifies the **future investment needed to meet the climate change, biodiversity and land degradation targets** (set in three [Rio Conventions](#)).

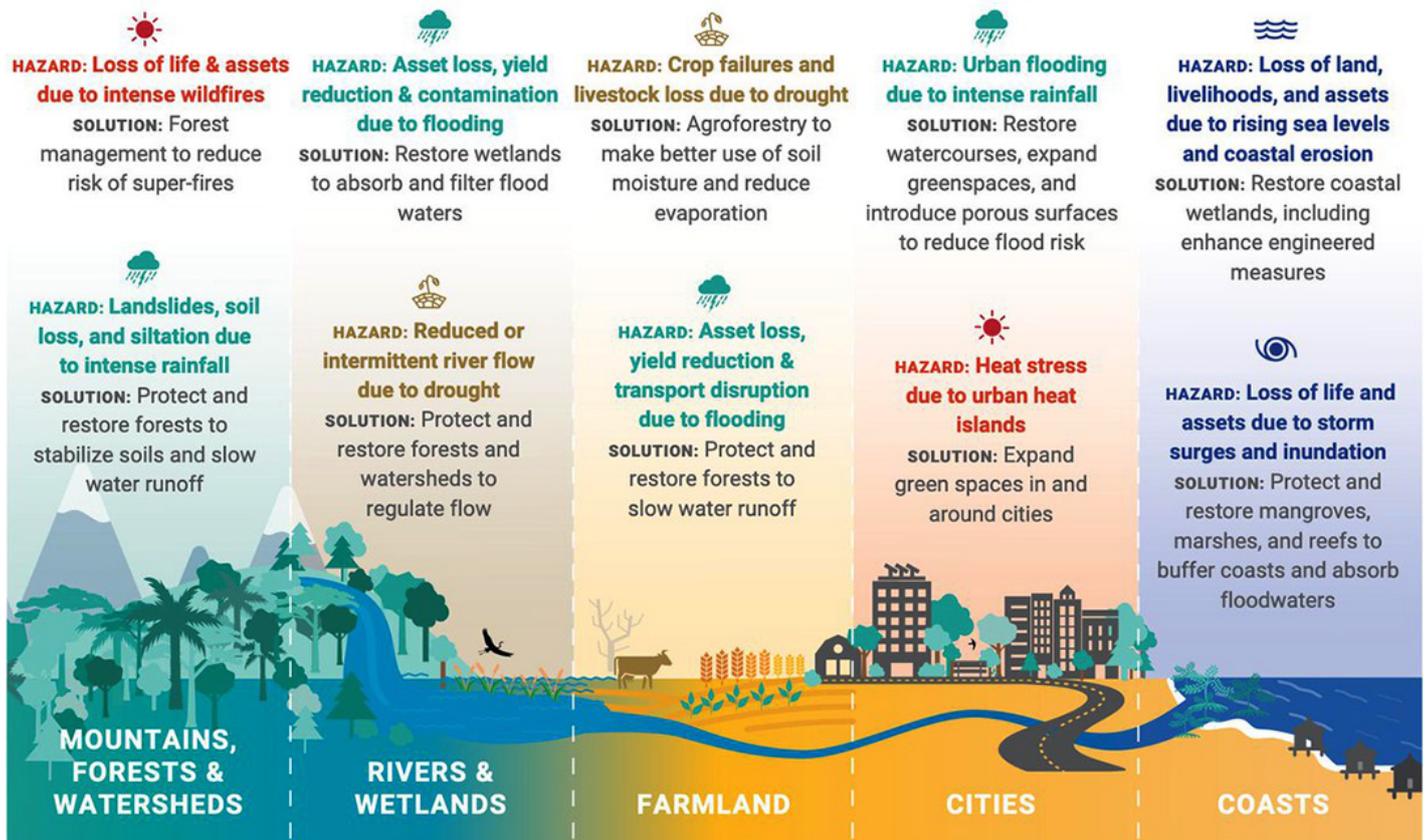
- The report was jointly produced by the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) (UNEP), the [World Economic Forum](#) and the [Economics of Land Degradation](#).

Key Points

- **About the 'Nature-based solutions (NbS)'**:
 - The [NbS](#) refers to **sustainable management and use of nature** to tackle socio-environmental challenges, which range from disaster risk reduction, climate change and biodiversity loss to food and water security as well as human health.
 - NbS creates **harmony between people and nature, enables ecological development** and represents a holistic, **people-centred response** to climate change.
 - Thus, NbS underpin the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), as they support vital ecosystem services, biodiversity, and access to fresh water, improved livelihoods, healthy diets and food security (organic agriculture) from sustainable food systems.
 - Also, NbS are an essential component of the overall global effort to achieve the goals of the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#).

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Nature-Based Solutions Can Build Resilience to Multiple Climate Hazards



▪ Key Findings of Report:

◦ Current Investments:

- Approximately **USD 133 billion** currently flows into nature-based solutions **annually** (using 2020 as base year). It **comprises about 0.10% of global gross domestic product**.
- The funds flow **to protect biodiversity and landscapes**, mixed with activities such as sustainable forestry.
- NbS finance is **much smaller in scale than climate finance** and relies more heavily on public finance.

◦ Public vs Private Funds:

- Public funds make up 86% and private finance 14% of these investments.
- The **public financial services providers** included the government, development finance institutions (DFIs), environmental/climate funds.

◦ Top Spenders:

- Public sector spending for the same is **dominated by the United States and China**, followed by Japan, Germany and Australia.
- Countries such as **Brazil, India and Saudi Arabia** are likely spending large amounts of money too, but they do not report internationally comparable data.

▪ Recommendations:

◦ More Investments:

- **Public and private actors will need to scale up their annual investments** by at least four times to meet future climate, biodiversity and land degradation targets.
- **Annual investment should reach USD 536 billion** by 2050.

- **Enhancing Cash Flows for Investment:**
 - Reforming taxes, repurposing agricultural policies and trade-related tariffs and harnessing the potential of [carbon markets](#).
- **Smart Investments:**
 - Restoration of **natural vegetation and afforestation** are essential to meet international targets.
 - The most important component of annual investment needs is the **cost of establishing new forests**, as it accounts for 80% of total costs.
- **Making Nature-based Solution a part of Government Policies:**
 - Supporting **inclusion of nature-based solutions in current [nationally determined contribution](#) revisions**, national adaptation plans and domestic sectoral legislation.
 - **Aligning private finance with public policy** for scaling up capital flows to nature to a level that can meet the targets of the three Rio Conventions.
- **System to Track Finances:**
 - There is a need for a comprehensive system and framework for labelling, tracking, reporting and verifying the state of finance for NbS.
 - This would improve data comparability and quality as an input to future decision-making.
 - Further, there is a need to increase positive financial flows by de-risking & incentivizing and reducing harmful financial flows.

[Source: DTE](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/state-of-finance-for-nature-report>