

“Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”.

Note on the preparations for the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

Recommendations from the Emirates Environmental Group – UAE

Page 2

“The crisis has brought about an unprecedented pause to many human activities, including some that have wreaked significant damage on the natural world; it has forced us to rethink how we work; it has also touched our values, including on the need to work together.”

EEG’s Input:

It is also important to acknowledge and reiterate how a decrease in human and economic activities has brought about some positive changes in the environment. For example: in China, emissions have fallen by 25% and in Europe, satellite images showed that nitrogen dioxide emissions have almost faded away over Italy. It is important to learn from this pandemic and the UN must use these facts and figures as evidence.

Link for reference: <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200326-covid-19-the-impact-of-coronavirus-on-the-environment>

Page 4:

“Proposed action area 1: Nature for Jobs and Economic Prosperity. This action area addresses mainly SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 9, 17 and emphasizes the imperative of a sustainable economic recovery in harmony with nature. Some elements to be considered within this area are listed in Box 1.”

EEG’s Input:

If, in fact, the emphasis of this action area is on “sustainable economic recovery in harmony with nature”, this should be implied in its title too. The current title – “Nature for Jobs and Economic Prosperity” has no mention of recovery or recuperation.

Page 4:

Under “Proposed action area 2: Nature for Health”

EEG’s Input:

The actions/aspects mentioned currently in the concept note are:

1. Investing in nature will limit the impact and emergence of zoonotic diseases
2. Developing a global collective structural response to address the threat of marine litter
3. Improving the state of freshwater and ocean environments
4. Setting a new global chemicals management framework

We recommend adding a new aspect i.e. 'Establishing partnerships with international health organisations such as the WHO to find more interlinkages between nature and health.'

Page 5:

Under "Box 3: Nature for Climate (Examples of potential actions)"

EEG's Input:

Revise the phrase – "Nationally Determine Contributions" to "Nationally Determined Contributions".