

Case Study SDG 15 “Terrestrial Ecosystems”

SDG and Targets

SDG 15 aims to “protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.” The goal is underpinned by the targets listed in the table below.

Credit Suisse’s Approach

Credit Suisse recognizes the vital need to protect the broad range of species on our planet and to safeguard natural ecological processes. Biodiversity is under threat due to the overexploitation of resources, the destruction of habitats, climate change and the impacts of invasive species. We believe that market-based financing mechanisms from the private finance sector have great potential for nature

conservation. We have accordingly strengthened our activities in the area of conservation finance, which allows for both the long-term protection of natural value and a financial return for investors, and we have been collaborating with expert partners on various projects.

In 2014, Credit Suisse published a study co-authored with WWF and McKinsey that analyzed innovative private sector financing structures in conservation and identified the barriers and enablers to scaling up such approaches. In December 2014, we launched our first investment product in this field, the Nature Conservation Notes. This new product in the environmental impact investing space consists of investments in sustainable agroforestry and ecosystem conservation, as well as in a portfolio of sustainable bonds. An investment in these notes supports conservation activities in around 20 countries as well as the economic development of local communities through the revenues generated by projects financed by the Althelia Climate Fund. Financial returns for investors are generated through the sale of sustainably certified commodities as well as from payments for ecosystem services.

Furthermore, together with WWF Indonesia, Credit Suisse supported a land value mapping study covering an area of around 32,000 km² within the tri-nation (Indonesia, Malaysia, Brunei) “Heart of Borneo” conservation area. Since 2014, Credit Suisse has been among a group of advisors to the Zoological Society of London (ZSL)

for the development of its free, interactive Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT), which combines satellite mapping technology with sustainability assessments of the largest oil palm growers in Indonesia.

Impact

By mobilizing private investments for the conservation of nature and ecosystem services, Credit Suisse contributes to closing the significant existing capital gap for nature conservation. Working with expert partners in developing investment products for clients and in executing state-of-the-art conservation projects, we deploy resources towards the realization of SDG 15,

with measurable results for the environment and for people.

Further information:
credit-suisse.com/biodiversity



SDG	Targets
15.1	By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.
15.2	By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
15.3	By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
15.4	By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development.
15.5	Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.
15.6	Ensure fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources.
15.7	Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.
15.8	By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.
15.9	By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts.

Contribution to SDG 15	Conservation Finance	Collaboration with Partners
Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating private investment in ecosystem and nature conservation, thereby generating one or several cash flows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pooling resources and expertise by collaborating with partners on projects to conserve nature and protect biodiversity
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Placement of EUR 15 million Nature Conservation Notes with over 50 investors; financial return in line with market expectations Through the underlying Althelia Climate Fund, the Notes will target a total of 12–15 investments in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia. In total, they are expected to promote forest conservation and sustainable land use that will directly and indirectly avoid deforestation and associated emissions of approx. 33 million tons of carbon dioxide. They are also expected to target the protection of over 3 million hectares (about the size of Belgium) of high conservation value ecosystems The investments will also lead to quantifiable impacts, including hectares of protected national park, nature reserve and biodiversity hotspots and the production of deforestation-free, organic and fair trade agricultural commodities such as cocoa, coffee, cashew nuts and beef 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The “Heart of Borneo” land value mapping study was developed as a potential template for strategic land use planning and management across Indonesia Data generated during the referred land value mapping exercise helped the area receive a share of a USD 28.5 million grant for conservation efforts under the debt-for-nature swap agreement run by the Indonesian and US governments The Sustainable Palm Oil Transparency Toolkit (SPOTT) is available for use by investors and other stakeholders in the palm oil sector, and plans are underway to expand the tool