

Economics  
*FOR* Nature

Putting Nature at the Heart of a Green  
Recovery:  
Country Perspectives from Brazil, France, India  
and Uganda



Development Alternatives



# A Nature-based Recovery



- Growing consensus on the need to include green spending and other green measures in economic recovery packages
- Green spending beginning to shape COVID-19 stimulus and recovery packages
- But many of these are carbon-focused
- Most green recovery spending still under-invests in nature, even though nature underpins our economies and societies

This work, coordinated by the GEC and IIED, was undertaken with country partners in Brazil, France, India & Uganda assess COVID-19 budgets to identify how nature is being integrated in economic decision-making.



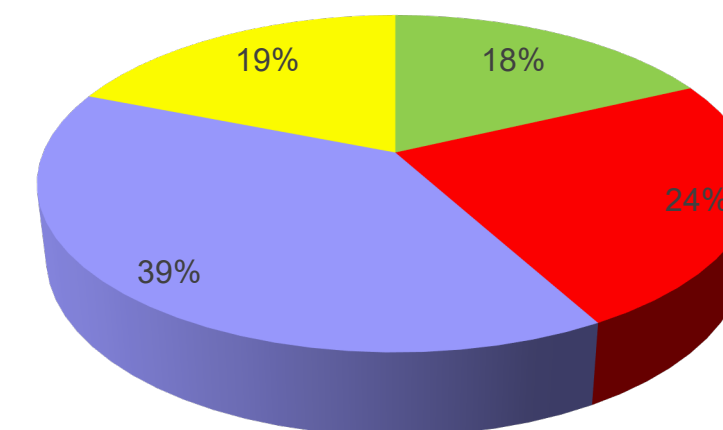
## Objectives & Methodology

- Combining analysis and advocacy, the work aims to **identify nature-positive and nature-negative recovery investments** and understand the processes that drives these economic decisions.
- National analysis **foundation for advocacy** and **draws general lessons and makes recommendations** for how countries can sustain and conserve natural capital in COVID recovery.
- Country partners are seeking to **influence pandemic recovery** plans and mainstream natural capital in COVID-19 economic decision-making

## Key Findings from India's COVID Recovery Analysis

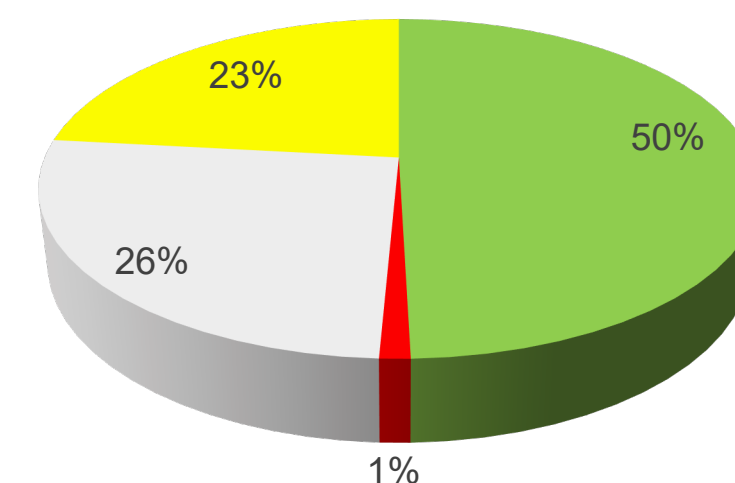
- Agricultural and allied sector, MSME and rural development sectors are the **priority sectors in COVID recovery**
- The **annual budget** of the subsequent year **did not necessarily prioritize these sectors**
- **18%** (approx) of total allocations in 5 selected sectors in the COVID recovery budget 2020-21 having **positive natural capital impact**
- **Major share of the allocations** in the COVID recovery budget 2020-21 **have ambiguity** in terms of net impact on natural capital
- A few **good policies** relevant for green recovery in the COVID recovery budget **discontinued** in annual budget of the subsequent year
- The **annual budget of the subsequent year shows better allocations** towards creating **positive natural capital** influence which is good way forward.

Representation of natural capital in COVID recovery package 2020-21



- Allocation in natural capital positive schemes
- Allocation in natural capital negative schemes
- Allocation in natural capital ambiguous schemes
- Allocation in natural capital neutral schemes

Representation of natural capital in Union Budget 2021-22



- Total allocation in natural capital positive schemes
- Total allocation in natural capital negative schemes
- Total allocation in natural capital ambiguous schemes
- Total allocation in natural capital neutral schemes



# Recommendations for COVID Recovery (based on 4 country studies)

Governments should **invest in natural capital** to bring economic benefits and growth opportunities.

Governments need to recognise that **natural capital investments drive social inclusion** e.g. SMEs, indigenous rights, social protection

Governments should link **credit facilities to environmental conditionality**.

Governments should support **environmentally friendly small and medium scale enterprises**.

Governments should support **sustainable small scale agriculture** and not support **environmentally damaging agri-business**

Governments should **not support environmentally damaging mining**



# Investing in Nature: A Case Study of land remediation interventions in Bundelkhand, India

## Community capacity building for natural resource management (social and human capital development)



## Land remediation interventions (technological/ physical & Natural Capital development)

Watershed Management-  
Check dam,  
Gabion structure

Farm renovation  
Farm pond,  
Field bund

Sustainable  
Agriculture

Climate  
Adaptive  
Planning

Forest  
Management  
& Biodiversity  
Conservation



Development Alternatives

# Outcomes of Land Remediation

## Increase in livelihood benefits

- Through Agriculture
- Livestock rearing
- Associated agro based and livestock produce based activities
- Improved access to water

## Strengthening of human, social and cultural capital

- Community awareness and skill developed
- Migration reduced
- Community based institutions became functional
- Natural resource based cultural activities improved along with traditional healthcare practice

## Ecosystem Benefits

- Positive biodiversity impact ( Mean species abundance increased)
- Improvement in soil carbon storage

## Contribution in national level targets and commitments

- Contributed to seven Sustainable Development Goals (SDG):
- Land degradation neutrality (LDN) target
- Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) targets
- Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) of India





# THANK YOU

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