Our aims & objectives

Championing nature-based solutions

Our aim 18 is championing nature-based solutions and enabling certified natural climate solutions.

We aim to use nature-based solutions (NbS) to deliver value and contribute to our people and planet aims in our operations and through our business activities. We will also support the development of scalable markets for certified natural climate solutions that help the world reduce deforestation, get to net zero and deliver environmental and social benefits.

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**Objectives**

1. To use nature-based solutions (NbS) to deliver value and contribute to our people and planet aims

2. To enable emission reductions through investments in certified Natural Climate Solutions (NCS)

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**2025 targets**

In 2022 we will:

- Develop an NbS action plan and identify 2030 aims for the way NbS will be used

**2030 aims**

- Support the development of scalable NCS markets and invest in jurisdictional NCS, including avoided deforestation

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**How we will meet our aim**

We plan to meet our aim through two objectives. The first objective is to identify opportunities to adopt nature-based solutions in the way we address engineering, environmental and social challenges in the areas where we work. These solutions can contribute to other aims such as biodiversity, water and health and wellbeing, as well as potentially delivering value as alternatives to ‘hard’ engineering solutions. We will work with our partners, including FFI, to incorporate these into plans and aim to generate local co-benefits to people and biodiversity. Through this work we will identify 2030 aims for how we will use NbS by the end of 2022.

Our second objective is to support the scale-up of natural climate solutions (NCS), which refers specifically to the generation of certified emission reductions (commonly known as carbon offsets) by activities that protect or restore nature.

We are developing a portfolio of investments in natural climate solution projects and programmes that generate certified emission reductions. Our investments are geographically diverse and strive to achieve both environmental and social benefits, as well as following a no-harm approach with strict safeguards applied.

We only invest using a list of bp-approved third-party developed carbon certification standards which bring quality assurance. These approved standards use robust methodologies that require carbon offsets to be transparently and accurately calculated and monitored, recorded in public registries, and are subjected to third-party independent certification by an accredited auditor. This is what we mean when we use the term ‘certified’ in relation to this aim. Recognizing the need for scale over time, we support the move towards national and jurisdictional accounting and crediting frameworks, as well as the nesting of NCS projects. As these activities scale up, we plan to meaningfully engage with external stakeholders to continue to develop our approach, which: applies the latest scientific knowledge and practice, uses high-quality third-party certified standards, advocates for robust NCS regulatory frameworks that embed wider environmental and social considerations (in addition to emissions reductions) and effective governance of NCS activities.

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**What are nature-based solutions and natural climate solutions?**

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human wellbeing and biodiversity benefits. Examples include coastal erosion control, soil erosion control, green roofs, soft green engineering or wastewater treatment.

Natural climate solutions (NCS) are a sub-set of nature-based solutions that focus on actions to reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions through nature conservation, restoration and improved land management.

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a By ‘nesting’ we mean the transition of stand-alone NCS projects to using national or jurisdictional carbon accounting frameworks and monitoring which ensures better consistency.
Our performance in 2020
We have progressed two aspects during 2020. Firstly, our policy and advocacy work and secondly our investment with partners to allow the increased supply of high-quality certified NCS credits.

Progress on NCS advocacy
We actively engage and contribute to a number of alliances and subject-matter groups that support the growth of a carbon market for high-quality emissions reductions generated from NCS. Specifically, we have a presence and participate in the Natural Climate Solutions Alliance, OGCI NCS group, the Stakeholder group for the Verified Carbon Standard on Nested and Jurisdictional REDD, WBCSD NCS Working Group and the IETA Working Group for NCS and IETA Markets for NCS initiative. We are also a member of Mark Carney’s Taskforce for Scaling Voluntary Carbon Market.

Partnering in Mexico with Pronatura
We have teamed up with donor US Agency for International Development and partner NGO Pronatura to scale-up the implementation of NCS and support sustainable forestry management in Mexico. We have supported the setup and development of these initial ‘Improved Forest Management’ projects through improving forest harvesting techniques and, in some cases, reducing timber extraction working closely with, and ensuring benefit to, the local communities. The programme has been tailored to the local context, especially the type of community land ownership that is common there, allowing for increased participation. The emission reductions are generated and registered under the Climate Action Reserve’s Mexico Forest Protocol (MFP).

The first 19 projects were certified in 2020 as meeting the requirements of the MFP by an accredited third-party certification body. We hope to add more communities in 2021. Activities are co-ordinated by Pronatura Mexico, who works with the technical advice and support of WRI, to collaborate with regional NGOs who manage day-to-day capacity building and programme management with participating forest communities.

Finite carbon
In December 2020 we announced that we acquired a majority stake in carbon offset developer Finite Carbon, building on our existing interest in the company. Finite Carbon is the largest developer of forest carbon offsets in the US.

We brought Finite Carbon into our in-house business accelerator Launchpad and invested to bolster its expansion in new and existing markets.

Finite Carbon identifies and develops projects that enable landowners to generate revenue from the protection, restoration and sustainable management of forests. These actions increase carbon stored in forests and generate carbon offsets that are verified against industry-recognized standards and can be traded on markets.

The company now has 50 carbon projects on three million acres in the US, which have registered more than 70 million independently verified offsets and generated more than $500 million in revenue for landowners. The increased investment will aid the delivery of a targeted further $1 billion in revenue to landowners by 2030 from its existing business lines and its new CORE CarbonSM platform.
Cautionary statement

In order to utilize the ‘safe harbor’ provisions of the United States Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 (the ‘PSLRA’), bp is providing the following cautionary statement. This press release contains certain forward-looking statements – that is, statements related to future, not past events and circumstances – which may relate to one or more of the financial condition, results of operations and businesses of bp and certain of the plans and objectives of bp with respect to these items.

These statements are generally, but not always, identified by the use of words such as ‘will’, ‘expects’, ‘is expected to’, ‘aims’, ‘should’, ‘may’, ‘objective’, ‘is likely to’, ‘intends’, ‘believes’, ‘anticipates’, ‘plans’, ‘we see’ or similar expressions. Actual results may differ from those expressed in such statements, depending on a variety of factors including the risk factors set forth in our most recent Annual Report and Form 20-F under “Risk factors” and in any of our more recent public reports.

Our most recent Annual Report and Form 20-F and other period filings are available on our website at www.bp.com, or can be obtained from the SEC by calling 1-800-SEC-0330 or on its website at www.sec.gov.