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IMPACT REPORT 2025



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FOREWORD



The transition towards a regenerative economy is no longer a question of ambition, but of urgency.

Nature loss, climate instability, and growing social inequalities are reshaping the risk landscape for businesses, investors, and societies alike. Yet within this disruption lies an extraordinary opportunity: to redesign our economic systems so that they operate within planetary boundaries while creating long-term value.

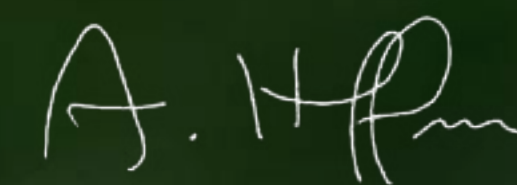
Innovate 4 Nature was founded to help seize this opportunity. As a Swiss non-profit foundation, we act as a catalyst for nature-positive innovation – identifying credible solutions, connecting them with strategic partners, and helping turn intent into implementation. In a context of increasing regulatory complexity and uncertainty, this role has never been more relevant.

2025 marked an important year of consolidation and focus for Innovate 4 Nature. Guided by a strategic review, we sharpened our priorities, strengthened our governance, and concentrated our resources on activities where we can create the greatest leverage: portfolio building, ecosystem building, and thought leadership. The continued global demand for the I4N Award, with more than 400 applications from across

the world, confirms both the relevance of our mission and the scale of innovation emerging at the intersection of nature, technology, and business.

None of this would be possible without the commitment of our partners, funders, jury members, network of experts, and the I4N team. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to thank all those who contribute their time, expertise, and resources to support nature-positive solutions at a critical stage of their development.

The journey towards a regenerative future requires courage, collaboration, and long-term thinking. Innovate 4 Nature is committed to playing its part, and to working with those who share the conviction that protecting and restoring nature is not a constraint on prosperity, but its foundation.



André Hoffmann

Chairman of the Board, Innovate 4 Nature



2025 was a year of both momentum and reflection for Innovate 4 Nature.

As interest in nature-positive innovation continued to grow globally, we took the time to critically assess how we operate, where we add the most value, and how we can scale our impact responsibly.

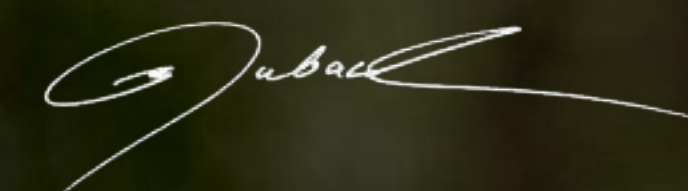
Our work throughout the year focused on our three core pillars. Through portfolio building, we identified and supported some of the most promising early-stage nature-positive solutions worldwide via the I4N Award. Through ecosystem building, we created meaningful connections between startups, corporates, investors, foundations, and policy actors – often bridging communities that would otherwise not meet. And through thought leadership, we helped make the business case for nature-positive innovation more visible and actionable.

Beyond numbers and milestones, what stood out in 2025 was the quality of engagement: deeper conversations with partners, more targeted matchmaking, and a growing recognition that nature-positive solutions must be integrated

into core business and investment strategies, not treated as peripheral initiatives.

Looking ahead, our priorities are clear. We aim to secure sustainable funding, further tailor the I4N Award to partner needs, launch regional hubs starting in Latin America and the MENA region, and expand our work at the intersection of nature and finance. None of this can be achieved alone. We therefore warmly invite partners and funders to join us in shaping the next phase of Innovate 4 Nature's journey.

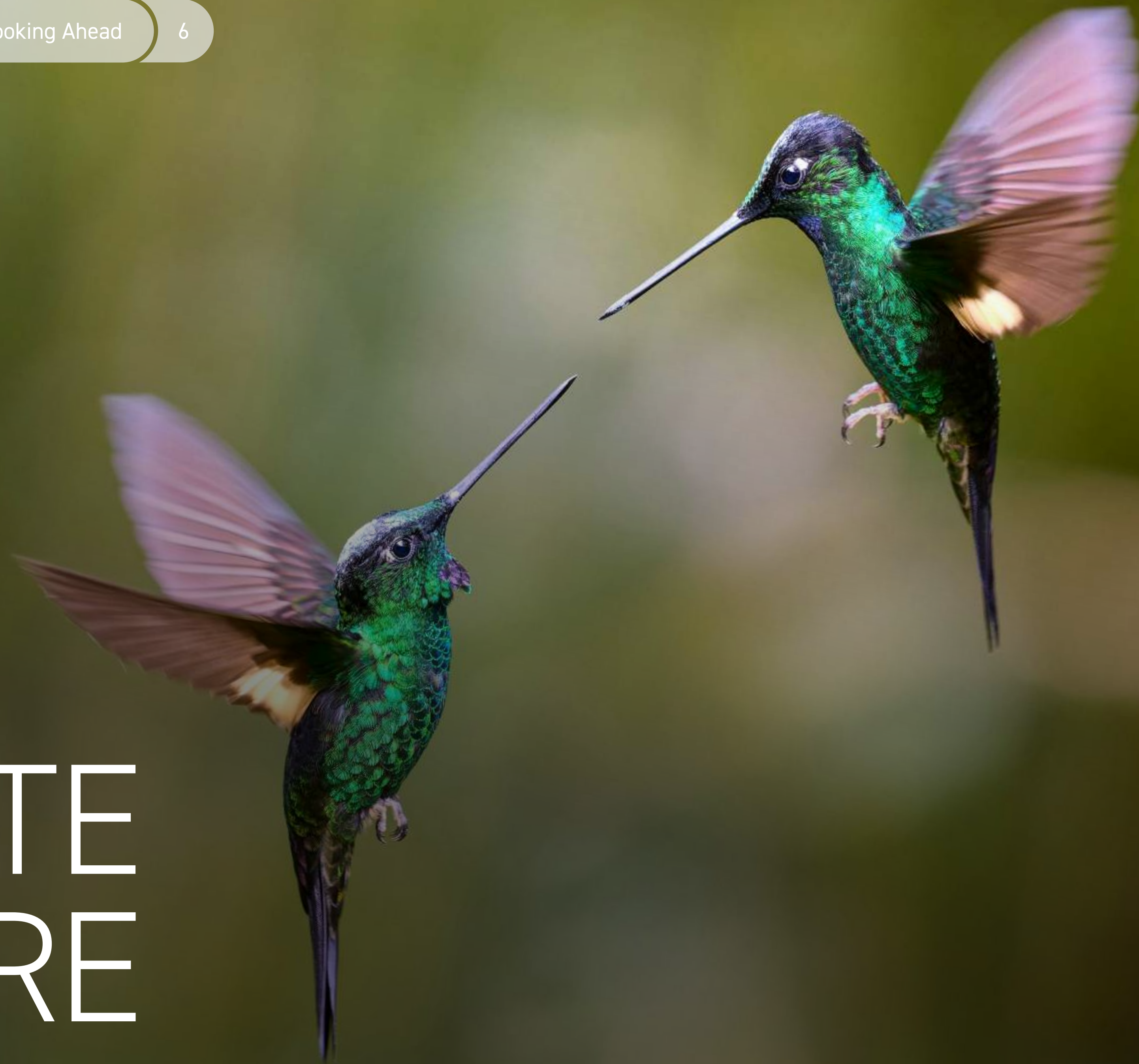
Thank you to our team, Board, Jury, partners and community for your trust and collaboration

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dubach".

Dr. Barbara Dubach
Executive Director, Innovate 4 Nature

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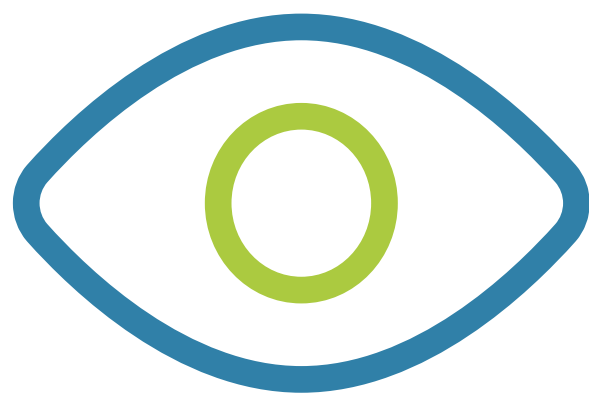
ABOUT INNOVATE 4 NATURE



Purpose, vision & mission

PURPOSE

The purpose of Innovate 4 Nature (I4N) is to help transition towards a regenerative economy by accelerating 100+ nature-positive solutions in collaboration with strategic partners by 2030.



VISION

Our vision is to achieve a nature-positive future where business thrives, ecosystems flourish, and our planet is regenerated for generations to come.



MISSION

I4N aims at creating a regenerative economy by:

- Scouting and building a portfolio of vetted nature-positive solutions
- Fostering an ecosystem bridging nature-positive solutions and partners
- Providing thought leadership



POSITIONING STATEMENT

I4N is a Swiss non-profit foundation acting as a global catalyst for nature-positive innovation to accelerate the transition towards a regenerative future.

With rising nature-related risks and opportunities, I4N provides vetted early-stage, innovative solutions, strategic matchmaking and thought leadership that helps corporates, investors and innovators move from ambition to implementation.

OUR ROLE

We connect innovation with opportunity

Innovate 4 Nature acts as a global catalyst for nature-positive innovation.

By identifying and connecting early-stage nature-positive solutions with the right partners, I4N helps organisations de-risk and accelerate their transformation, unlock new business opportunities, and future-proof operations and value chains.



NATURE-POSITIVE SOLUTIONS

- Scalable innovation
- Net-positive impact

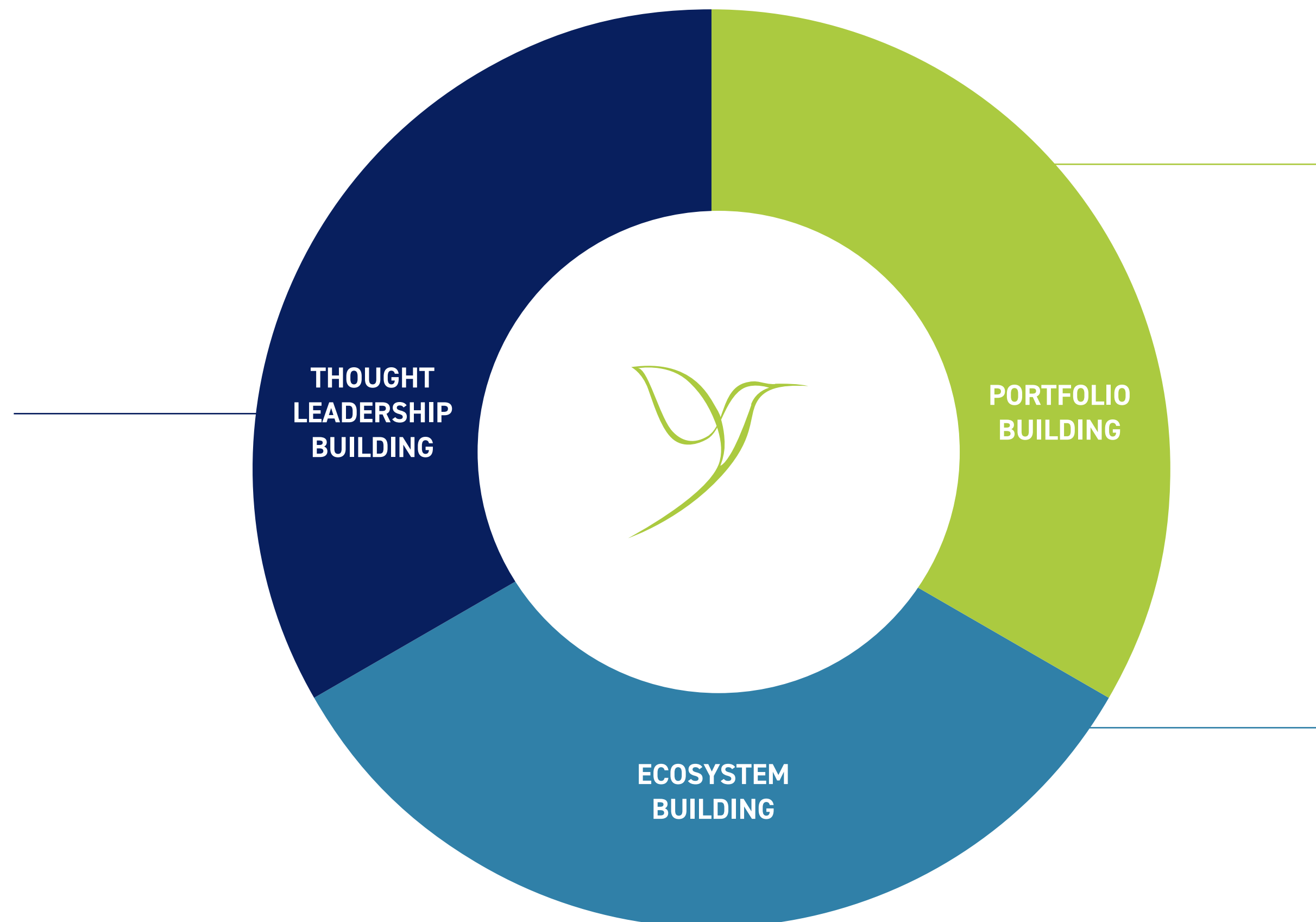


INVESTORS, CORPORATES, PHILANTHROPY

- Investment capital
- Value chain resilience
- Corporate pledges and innovation needs

Our activities across three pillars

- We make nature-positive innovation visible and showcase success stories
- We publish expert content, including best practices and white papers



- We scout nature-positive solutions aligned with specific corporate and investor challenges
- We build capacity and continuously measure and report the nature-positive impact of the solutions
- We facilitate high-level introductions between innovative solutions and strategic partners, incl. corporations, foundations and investors
- We provide networking opportunities through ecosystem events and platforms, such as the Nature Lunch and I4N events, regional hubs, peer-to-peer exchanges, and an investment platform

Governance

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Innovate 4 Nature is guided by a Board of Trustees chaired by **André Hoffmann** and composed of experienced professionals with expertise in biodiversity, finance, law, philanthropy, and business. The Board provides strategic oversight and ensures alignment with the foundation's mission.

OPERATIONAL TEAM

The operational team, led by Executive Director **Barbara Dubach**, manages day-to-day activities including portfolio building, fundraising, partnerships, and communications. Our work is further supported by an independent jury, strategic partners, and a broad network of experts.

I4N JURY

I4N NETWORK PARTNERS & EXPERTS

I4N STRATEGIC PARTNERS



Hanna Byland
CEO, W.A. de Vigier Stiftung



Jean Hauss
Executive Director, InTent



André Hoffmann
Co-Chairman, World Economic Forum



Brieux Michoud
Managing Director, CEC France



Valerie Remoquillo-Jenni
CEO, Fourfold Foundation



Dr. Barbara Dubach
Executive Director

PORTFOLIO BUILDING

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

ECOSYSTEM BUILDING



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OUR IMPACT IN 2025



At a glance

2025 marked an important year of focus and momentum-building for Innovate 4 Nature.

The continued global demand for the **I4N AWARD**, with more than **400 applications** from across the world, confirms both the relevance of our mission and the scale of innovation emerging at the intersection of nature, technology, and business.

409

from 76 countries applied for the
I4N AWARD 2025

CHF 115,000

total in prize money awarded

16 FINALISTS (FOUR PER FOCUS AREA)
4 I4N AWARD WINNERS
1 WYSS ACADEMY FOR NATURE GRANT RECIPIENT
2 HONORARY MENTIONS

500+

attendees at I4N hosted or co-hosted events

123%

growth in LinkedIn followers with an **18%** engagement rate

13 individual mentoring sessions and 3 group workshops delivered

10+

strategic and network partnerships established

14 thought leadership pieces published

Our KPIs in more detail

KPI	RESULT
# of solutions identified as part of the I4N Award 2025	409 applicants from 76 countries 160 solutions identified for round 2 32 solutions short listed for round 3
# of I4N Award Finalists 2025	16 solutions selected for jury meeting (4 per focus area)
# of awardees	4 I4N Award winners 1 Wyss Academy for Nature Grant recipient 2 honorary mentions TOTAL OF CHF 115K OF PRIZE MONEY
# of solutions supported (mentoring, event participation, workshops, ...)	15 solutions participated in the mentoring programme 28 solutions participated in group workshops 13 individual mentoring sessions facilitated 3 group workshops facilitated Stage given to 28 nature-positive solutions at events
# of partnerships established	# of new strategic partners: 1 # of new network partners: 12 # of active discussions with corporates, foundations, investors and family offices: >200
# of 'lives touched'	# of events hosted or co-hosted: 6 ; # of attendees at hosted or co-hosted events: >500 ; # of speaking slots at events: >30 ; # of new LinkedIn followers: 3,380 (+123%); Average LinkedIn engagement rate across I4N posts: 18% ; # of website visits: 20K (+33%)
# of content pieces	14 thought leadership pieces; 3 announcements
# of new initiatives launched	3 new initiatives

EXAMPLES

Please see our [Solution Gallery](#)

AirX Carbon, Bioplaster Research, CellX Biosolutions, Courageous Land, databaum, EarthAcre, FABUMIN, Fair Carbon, FieldFactors, KUORI, NILUS, ParaStruct, Scrimber CSC, SimplexDNA, Sinkco Labs, unibaio

Winners: AirX Carbon, Courageous Land, FieldFactors, SimplexDNA

Grant recipient: EarthAcre

Honorary mentions: CellX Biosolutions, Satellites on Fire

Strategic partner: Wyss Academy for Nature;

Network partner: Business for Nature, Climada Technologies, European Biodiversity Coalition, goodcarbon, Goumbook, Metastable, Nature Wealth Foundation, Dynex, PwC Switzerland, RealCycle, SAP

Hosted & co-hosted events: I4N Dinner at WEF 2025, Climate Hub panel at WEF 2025, When Climate Meets Nature Dinner, Launch event LATAM Hub, I4N Jury Meeting, cycle talk

Speaking slots at: World Systemic Forum, World Economic Forum, OECD - Mobilizing Private Finance for Biodiversity, Skoll World Forum, HackSummit, Regenerative Living Zurich, swisscleantech Dialog, Rocket Day, NZZ Sustainable Switzerland Forum, Building Bridges, Sustainable Switzerland Entrepreneurs Club

Please see our [Insights](#)

Mentoring programme for solutions; FUNDES partnership for LATAM hub;
 First cohort of the 'It's Now for Nature Accelerator' programme for corporates launched

PORTFOLIO BUILDING

The I4N Award

The **I4N Award** is our key driver for identifying and accelerating nature-positive solutions.

The award journey is a multi-stage process that rigorously evaluates nature-positive solutions based on their environmental impact, business viability and governance. It culminates in recognising and supporting the most promising solutions through an award, mentorship, and a dedicated event.

The I4N Award offers both financial and non-financial benefits, with the aim to accelerate nature-positive solutions.



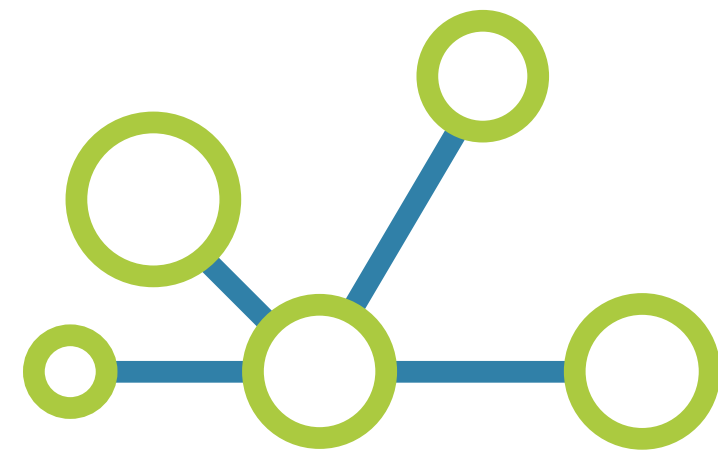
PORTFOLIO BUILDING

The I4N Award

Four cash prizes of CHF 25,000 each across four focus areas, and one grant of CHF 15,000, sponsored by the Wyss Academy for Nature.



Access to the I4N ecosystem, including corporates, investors and experts



Tailored capacity building and mentorship opportunities



Increased visibility through I4N channels and exclusive events



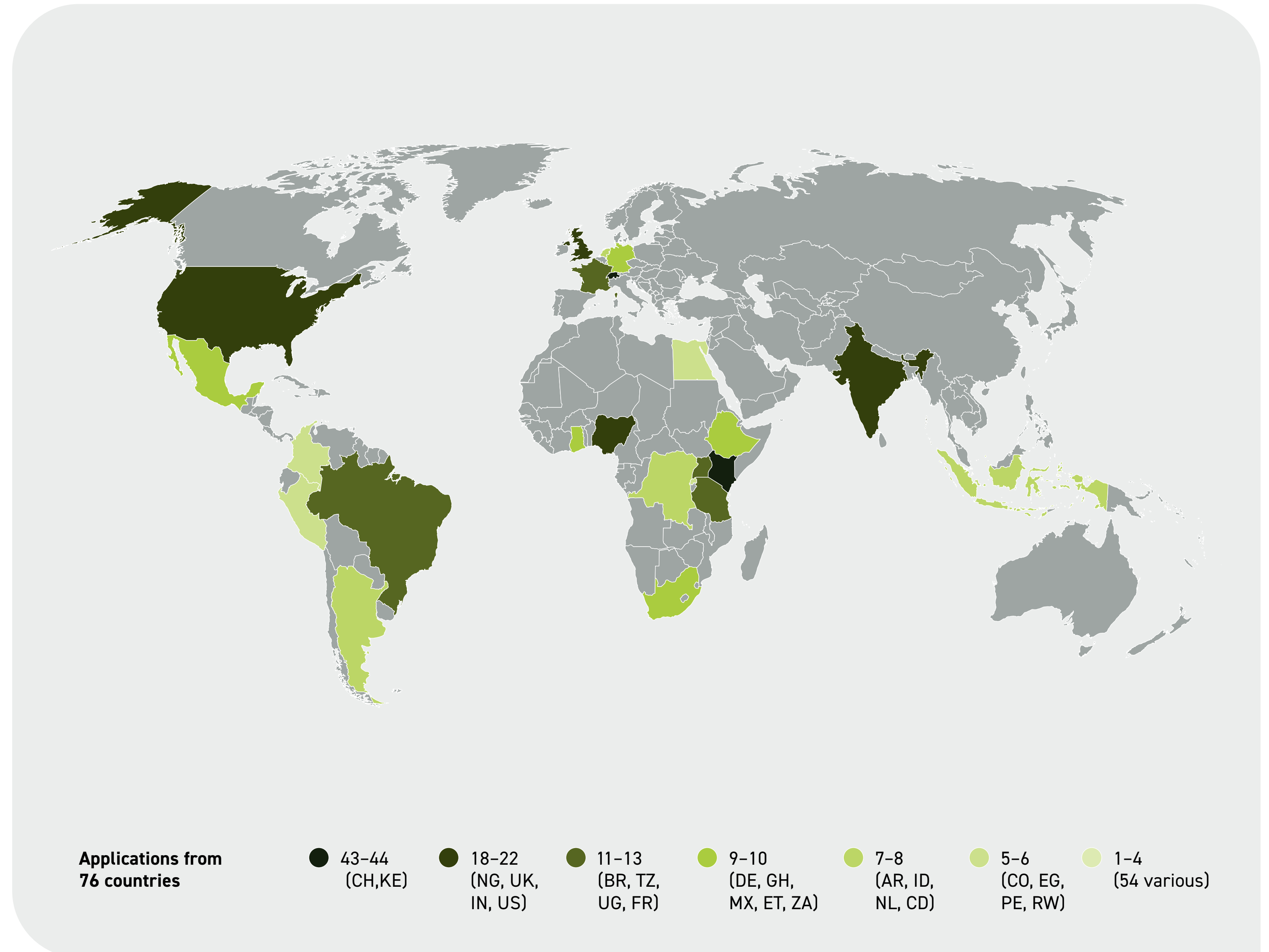
PORTFOLIO BUILDING

Global high demand for the I4N Award 2025

In 2025, we issued the **I4N Award** for the second time.

We received **409 applications** from **76 countries**, showing a continued high demand for our award.

In 2024, we launched the first edition of the I4N Award and received 402 applications from 81 countries.



PORTFOLIO BUILDING

A glimpse into our assessment process

Nature-positive solutions need to pass three rounds in order to win the I4N Award.

Round 1

In the first round, we focus on evaluating the projected biodiversity impact of the solution over the next five years, alongside key business fundamentals.

BIODIVERSITY & NATURE

- **Theory of change:** Ability to identify and articulate the solution's positive impact
- **Extent:** Potential size of area positively affected by the solution
- **Condition change:** Potential size of the positive ecosystem condition change
- **Significance:** Relative importance of the impacted area for biodiversity
- **Transformation:** Solution potential to transform economic/social systems

BUSINESS

- **Problem-fit:** Ability of the solution to solve the selected problem
- **Financial viability:** Potential ability of business-model to self-sustain at scale
- **Maturity:** Stage after initial idea, before growth phase
- **Team:** Composition and skills of team

Furthermore, to allow for fair comparison, we ask questions to cluster applicants with similar peers.

Round 2

We validate assumptions from Round 1, assess the positive and negative impacts of the solutions' business model, and explore key activities in more depth.

BUSINESS

- **Funding needs:** Appropriate ask for next step in business plan
- **Customers:** Identification of current & future customers
- **Competitive edge:** Identification of and potential of competitive edge
- **Revenue & financials:** Realistic financial model based on existing operations
- **Market understanding:** Realistic estimation of market size & competition
- **Governance and social:** Ability to identify impacts & risks

BIODIVERSITY & NATURE:

- **Negative impact:** Ability to identify and articulate the solution's negative impact.
- **Adaptability & resilience:** Ability to adapt to changing environmental, social, and technological conditions
- **Circularity & regeneration:** Does the solution follow principles of circularity and regeneration
- **Economic activities & nature:** Inherent links between business model and nature impact.

PORTFOLIO BUILDING

A glimpse into our assessment process

In the third and final round, we shortlisted 32 solutions, which were reviewed by experts and received pitch training. Out of these, 16 Finalists were selected to pitch in front of our renowned and diverse I4N Jury.

THE I4N JURY

FINANCE



Gina Domanig
Emerald Ventures



Simon Zadek
Morphosis



Patti Chu
Mana Impact

SCIENCE & ACADEMIA



Prof. Dr. Judith Walls
Institute of Responsible
Innovation, Sustainability
and Energy, HSG



**Prof. Dr. Peter
Messerli**
Wyss Academy
for Nature

NGO & PHILANTHROPY



Hannah Jones
Former CEO, The
Earthshot Prize



Thomas Vallacott
WWF Switzerland



Lena Gampp
Fourfold Foundation

GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS



Eva Zabey
Business for Nature



Jonathan Normand
B Lab (Switzerland)



Janine Kurige
FDFA

Round 3

The jury evaluates each finalist against five core criteria, scoring them on a scale of 1 to 5.

JURY CRITERIA

- **Impact:** Evaluate the solution's demonstrated or expected contributions to ecosystem regeneration, biodiversity conservation, and community well-being, ensuring alignment with ecological limits.
- **Innovation & adaptability:** Assess the novelty and originality of the solution, considering whether it introduces new approaches or builds upon existing ideas while adapting to changing environmental, social, and technological conditions.
- **Evidence & design:** Evaluate the use of scientific evidence, feedback mechanisms, and circular design principles to support measurable outcomes, efficient use of resources, and continuous improvement.
- **Equitable governance & participation:** Evaluate the inclusiveness and fairness of governance, ensuring transparent decision-making, meaningful stakeholder engagement, & shared ownership throughout the solution's development and implementation.
- **Purposeful growth:** Consider the potential for the solution to scale or replicate responsibly, ensuring growth aligns with ecological resilience, cultural values, and social priorities.

PORTFOLIO BUILDING

The I4N Awardees 2025

I4N AWARD WINNERS

Courageous Land



CL COURAGEOUS LAND

Field Factors



Field Factors

NetZero Pallet



NETZERO PALLET

SimplexDNA



SimplexDNA

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITIONS

Wyss Academy for Nature Grant Recipient

EarthAcre



EarthAcre

Honorary Mentions

CellX Biosolutions



CellX Biosolutions

Satellites on Fire



SATELLITES ON FIRE

PORTFOLIO BUILDING

The I4N Awardees 2025



“

I very much appreciate the support we received from the Innovate 4 Nature team, and the professional selection process.

Kieran Dartée
Chief Operations Officer
FieldFactors



“

Through the I4N Award we got visibility and credibility, which is important if we want to attract investments.

Pepijn Looije
CTO
Courageous Land



“

Innovate 4 Nature represents what we need: global visibility so that we can showcase our products and solutions, and access to business leaders who are serious about nature-positive transformation.

My Hoang
Chief Strategy Officer
NetZero Pallet



“

The I4N Award is one of the only awards out there that really resonated with me in terms of its goals and mission to lift us up. Also the mentorship and network that we now have access to will accelerate our ability to bring our technology to the world.

Kristy Deiner
Chief Operations Officer
SimplexDNA

ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

Connecting solutions with partners

As a catalyst for nature-positive innovation, Innovate 4 Nature (I4N) connects nature-positive startups with relevant partners, such as companies, foundations, investors or family offices.

To this end, I4N both hosts and participates in various events throughout the year, where selected solutions may also attend or present.

Key highlights from 2025 include the I4N Dinner at the World Economic Forum 2025 in Davos, bringing together more than 180 leaders from business, policy and academia, our events at Building Bridges 2025, the launch event of the I4N Regional Hub in Latin America, and the I4N Jury Meeting.

Through events like those, we gave 28 startups the opportunity to present their solution to high-level audiences.

In addition, thanks to our mentoring programme for selected solutions, we facilitated we provided pitch training to 32 shortlisted solutions, and facilitated 13 individual mentoring sessions, and three group workshops – giving startups access to seasoned professionals and their expertise to help them scale further.



“

If it weren't for startups, I might not be so hopeful. Most of the breakthrough innovations that big companies depend on come from smaller companies.

Paul Polman,
Business leader, Investor,
Philanthropist

ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

Impressions from the I4N Award Ceremony



AT THE 1st NATURE LUNCH DURING THE WEF 2026



ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

Going further together: hear from some of our partners



“

PwC Switzerland is working with Innovate 4 Nature on a joint thoughtleadership paper exploring the business value of nature for the Swiss economy. By combining industry expertise with ecosystem knowledge and connections, we are shaping early insights that translate into actionable, future-focused perspectives.

Antonios Koumbarakis,
Partner, Sustainability & Strategic Regulatory Leader,
PwC Switzerland



“

Working with Innovate 4 Nature has been a truly impactful experience. Their ability to connect cutting-edge nature-positive innovators with business leaders, investors, and policymakers creates a rare space where ideas turn into action. Through our collaboration, we have seen how I4N bridges sectors, accelerates meaningful partnerships, and helps translate biodiversity ambition into practical solutions. We value their strategic approach, their convening power, and their deep commitment to building a regenerative economy.

Leah Becker,
Program Management Officer,
European Biodiversity Coalition



“

FUNDES has 42 years of experience empowering more than 2 million small and medium-sized enterprises in over 20 countries across Latin America and the Caribbean. Partnering with I4N enables us to bring this experience into the field of nature-positive innovation, building the foundation for a regional hub that can create lasting impact.

Mauricio Ramírez,
Director,
FUNDES

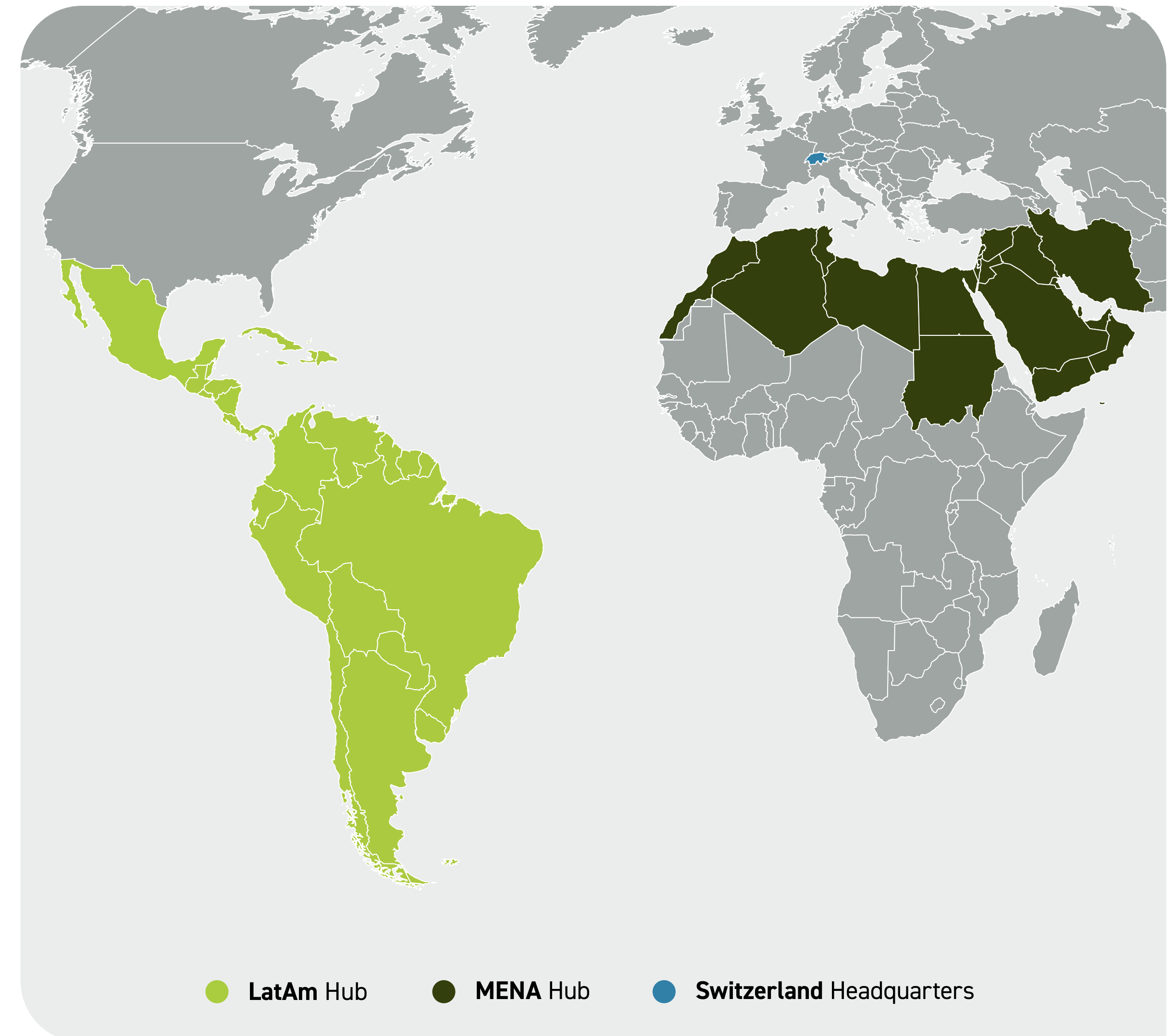
ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

The I4N Regional Hub in Latin America

In October 2025, we announced the first I4N Regional Hub in collaboration with **FUNDES**. The Hub, based in Costa Rica, aims to identify, support and scale nature-positive solutions that respond to Latin America's urgent environmental challenges.

This partnership represents the first step towards establishing the I4N Regional Hub in Latin America, which will be launched once the required funding and strategic partnerships are in place.

A second hub is foreseen in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The goal of these hubs is to surface scalable solutions that can be replicated locally, regionally and globally, ultimately connecting them to I4N's global ecosystem. The regional hubs will organise annual awards in parallel to I4N's global activities.



ECOSYSTEM BUILDING

'It's Now for Nature' Accelerator Programme

In collaboration with [Business for Nature](#), I4N launched an Accelerator Programme for corporates in 2025, equipping companies to develop and publish a credible nature strategy aligned with the Global Biodiversity Framework. Through six workshops, expert drop-in sessions, and practical 'how-to' guidance, participants gain the essential tools and methodologies to transform biodiversity targets into actionable business strategies.

BENEFITS INCLUDE:

Understanding dependencies, risks, impacts and opportunities

SMART targets and roadmap with prioritised interventions'

Implementation of nature-positive innovations

Prepared for TNFD/
CSRD disclosure



Nature underpins our global economy, but voluntary action alone isn't enough to protect it. While proactive businesses are already reducing risk and unlocking opportunities, Innovate 4 Nature brings this potential to life by showcasing regenerative solutions in action. By scaling these innovations through ambitious policy, we can transform global value chains and secure a nature-positive economy for all. This powerful loop between business leadership and government action is at the heart of our mission at Business for Nature."

Eva Zabey,
CEO,
Business for Nature

Interested in joining? [Find out more](#)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Making nature-positive innovation visible

At I4N, thought leadership means driving the conversation on nature-positive solutions, showcasing best practices, and amplifying the impact of our partners.

In 2025, I4N was invited to a variety of events to showcase the relevance of nature-positive innovation for the transition to a regenerative economy.

One highlight was the launch of our collaboration with the European Biodiversity Coalition to create a new nature flagship event: the Nature Lunch, which took place during the World Economic Forum 2026.

We also facilitated a 'When Nature meets Climate' dinner that brought together a curated group of business leaders in Zurich.

We also announced our **partnership with PwC Switzerland**, with the goal of publishing a white paper about **unlocking resilience through the power of nature-positive solutions** in 2026.

This will include:

- A joint survey on nature risks and opportunities management in key sectors
- Concrete nature-positive solutions relevant to those sectors
- A launch event featuring exciting speakers



THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

Insights and articles

Throughout the year, we shared our insights on various topics to advance the discussion on nature-positive innovation. Examples include:



Our insights and calls-to-action from WEF 2025



More in-depth explainers about our award process, including the assessment criteria from rounds 1, 2 and 3, and our four focus areas.



Impact case studies showcasing successful collaborations between solutions and other organisations. Examples 1, 2, 3.



Opinion pieces and key learnings from larger events, such as HackSummit or the Sustainable Switzerland Forum

4

LOOKING AHEAD

The Road Ahead: Our 2026 Priorities

As we move into 2026, Innovate 4 Nature will focus on acting as a global catalyst for nature-positive innovation along six strategic directives.

1

Financial Resilience

- Strengthening our organisational foundation by diversifying revenue streams and securing recurring funding to ensure long-term stability.

2

Portfolio Building

- Launching needs-based, sector-specific calls for applications to fast-track nature-positive solutions with the highest potential for real-world implementation.
- Matching our 2025 awardees and alumni with strategic partners to accelerate their growth.

3

Ecosystem Building

- Establishing Regional Hubs to bridge local innovation with global expertise and scale impact on the ground.
- Fostering connections with our Nature Lunch at the WEF and year-round events
- Developing a dedicated investment platform in partnership with Metastable Ventures.

4

Thought Leadership

- Focus on the business case for nature-positive innovation
- Shaping the global discourse on nature-positive transitions via joint white papers with PwC Switzerland and other partners

5

Operations

- Advancing our assessment process through quantum-enhanced automation in collaboration with Dynex, ensuring a faster and more precise identification of top-tier start-ups

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Become part of the I4N journey

As a non-profit foundation, we rely entirely on external funding to sustain and scale our work. Every contribution counts.

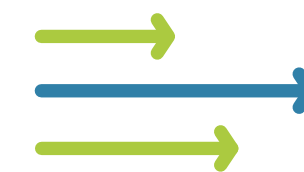
I4N is always looking for partners and sponsors who share our vision and help us fund our activities. What we offer:

- **Innovative, resilient solutions for your value chain or sector challenges:** we source the right innovations and help manage your transition toward a nature-positive value chain.
- **I4N Action Labs:** structured, cross-sector platforms designed to accelerate the deployment of nature-positive solutions.
- **Investment opportunities:** we have hundreds of vetted nature-positive startups in our portfolio that we want to mobilise capital for through our new investment arm with Metastable Ventures.
- **Regional Hubs:** the first two regional hubs are being set up in Latam and the MENA region - and you can become a part of it.
- **Operations and thought leadership:** research, convening of events, such as the Nature Lunch 2027, communication, partnerships for amplification.

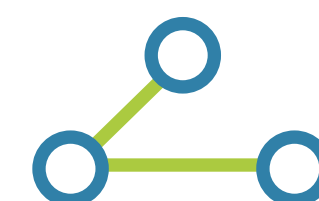
[Get in touch with us to explore collaboration opportunities.](#)

BY COLLABORATING WITH I4N, YOU CAN:

Gain access to a curated portfolio of high-impact, nature-positive solutions



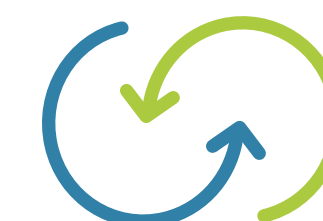
Contribute to building a thriving ecosystem for sustainable innovation



Connect with innovative startups and entrepreneurs



Position your organisation as a leader in the regenerative economy



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Innovate 4 Nature - I4N



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