COOPERATION FOR THE TRANSITION TO A GREEN ECONOMY
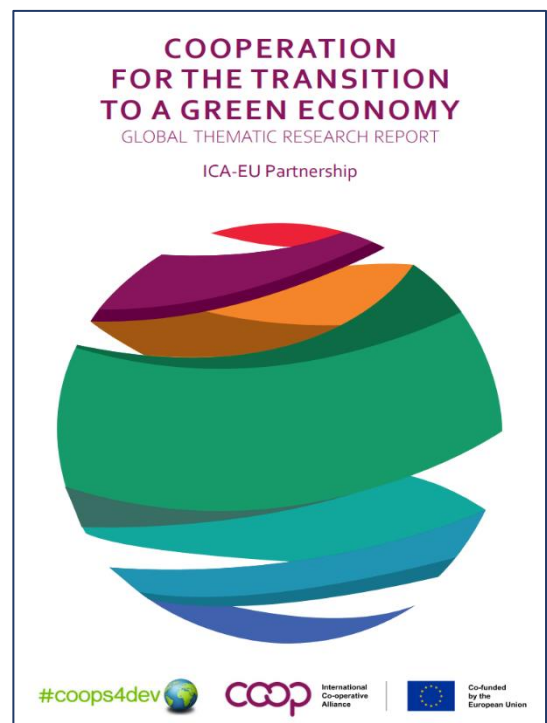## REPORT BY THE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE ALLIANCE

In 2021 the International Cooperative Alliance published the Report Cooperation for the transition to a green economy, providing an overview on how cooperatives are acting to protect the environment, as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.

Co-produced by ICA International and regional offices, the Report presents 8 case studies showcasing a variety of environmental actions from cooperative enterprises working in Australia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Finland, Tanzania, France, Kenya, and Thailand.

Examples include access and management of natural habitats and resources through cooperative approaches, innovative responses to minimize environmental impacts. The Report presents cooperatives of different sizes and areas of activity, specifically in the energy, forestry, housing, transport, and finance sectors. These cooperatives implement sustainable practices in a variety of ways, for instance by organizing the provision of ecologically services or through cooperative education and training on the ecology. Overall, the cooperative enterprise model can be a viable alternative to business as usual and is set to become an enterprise model of choice in tackling climate change and environmental degradation.

In the conclusions chapter, the Report underlines that through each of the examples presented, the research demonstrates how cooperatives can play a role as key players in the transition to the green economy, as well as how they can contribute to the SDGs and Agenda 2030. All the case studies demonstrate the 'cooperative difference', a characteristic and added value that sets cooperatives apart from business as usual. In renewable energy supply, for example, energy cooperatives provide their services, while reducing emissions and contributing to sustainable development, in areas where investor-owned companies or utilities fail to be active.

Other initiatives show the potential for replicable and sustainable change in the wider credit union and cooperative banking movement. Sustainable financial systems will be critical in valuing and preserving our natural world and cooperatives are already playing an important role. The size and scale of the

cooperative enterprise is an important factor when thinking about how to improve environmental sustainability. Action at a large scale will be crucial for larger cooperative enterprises, such as the agricultural cooperatives, to reform value chains and to mainstream environmental management into business practices. At the local level, the cases also demonstrate that measures adopted by small cooperatives are crucial and have the potential to create lasting impact in the long-term.

The International Cooperative Alliance points out that an enormous work is still to be done to meet national and international commitments of the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030 to bring impactful change at a global scale. Through the Report the ICA Alliance wanted to launch a conversation for cooperators and other important stakeholders on how cooperatives can take their place at the forefront of an ecological transition.

Founded in 1895, the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) is a non-governmental organization representing the cooperatives, a global voice and forum for knowledge, expertise and coordinated action across sectors and regions. The facts and figures section of the ICA website highlights that the organization represents more than 1 billion cooperative members from 3 million cooperatives, providing jobs or work opportunities to 10% of the employed population in the world, in addition to other data showing the impact of this movement worldwide.

To know more

Cooperation for the transition to a green economy in ICA website,

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Cooperation for the transition to a green economy - pdf in coops4dev.coop

Facts and figures in ICA website

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