



WWF EXPECTATIONS PAPER: CBD COP15

# NATURE POSITIVE BY 2030: SECURING A GLOBAL PLAN TO SAVE OUR LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS

November 2022



## The 2022 UN Conference on Biodiversity in Montréal (COP15) is an unmissable opportunity to tackle the accelerating crisis of biodiversity loss.

Governments will meet in December 2022 to agree on new global goals and a 2030 action plan for nature. This deal must set the world on a new course to address alarming biodiversity loss, which is also vital to combating the climate emergency, achieving food and water security, reducing our vulnerability to future pandemics, and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

As humans continue to exploit and destroy nature at an unprecedented scale, we undermine the living systems that our own wellbeing, security and prosperity depend upon. The post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF) needs to be at least as comprehensive, science-based and ambitious as the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It must deliver immediate action on the ground to reverse nature loss; however, the current draft framework does not go far enough to address the biodiversity crisis. WWF has identified a number of areas in which the GBF must galvanize transformative action.

All countries must increase ambition and action to deliver a comprehensive and science-based framework that can halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and achieve a

nature-positive future, so that by the end of the decade we have more nature than at its start. The GBF needs to provide a step change from the previous 10-year strategic plan for the CBD - under which none of the 20 so-called Aichi targets were fully met. It was the second consecutive decade that the world failed to meet biodiversity targets. During this time, biodiversity loss has continued, at an increasing rate. Governments must set new ambitious targets for 2030 and be held accountable for meeting them.

After COP15 and the agreement of the GBF, countries should immediately update their National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) to align with the framework and the ambition to reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 to achieve a nature-positive world. Ideally, they would also be aligned with their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to ensure an integrated approach to solving the climate and biodiversity crises.

# What does success look like?

COP15 must result in the agreement of a strong and ambitious GBF, ready for Parties to begin immediately implementing through the setting of national targets and updating NBSAPs in line with the new global framework. This will require the adoption at COP15 of a package that, at a minimum, includes, in addition to the post-2020 GBF document:

- The monitoring framework including headline indicators
- The enhanced multidimensional approach to planning, monitoring, reporting and review
- The strategy for resource mobilization

The COP decision which operationalizes the GBF should identify that the immediate and full implementation of the GBF, including through adequate national legislation, is required by Parties in order to fulfill their obligations under the Convention.

To address our escalating nature crisis and secure a sustainable future for current and future generations, the adopted framework must, at a minimum, contain the following key negotiated policy outcomes:

## A SUCCESSFUL POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK MUST INCLUDE:

A MISSION TO REVERSE THE LOSS OF BIODIVERSITY TO ACHIEVE A NATURE-POSITIVE WORLD BY 2030

DELIVERED THROUGH RIGHTS-BASED AND WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACHES



**CONSERVE HABITATS**

TARGETS TO CONSERVE 30% OF LAND, FRESHWATER AND OCEANS AND RESTORE DEGRADED ECOSYSTEMS GLOBALLY BY 2030



**FOOTPRINT**

A MILESTONE TO HALVE THE FOOTPRINT OF PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION BY 2030 AND TARGETS COVERING ALL SECTORS DRIVING NATURE LOSS



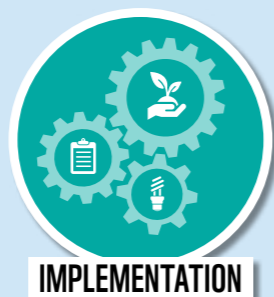
**NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS (NbS)**

THE INCLUSION OF NbS, ALONGSIDE ECOSYSTEM-BASED APPROACHES, TO DELIVER BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE, NATURE AND CLIMATE



**FINANCE**

A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN RESOURCES, TOGETHER WITH MEASURES TO ALIGN FINANCIAL FLOWS TO BE NATURE POSITIVE AND TO REPURPOSE ALL HARMFUL SUBSIDIES BY 2030



**IMPLEMENTATION**

A STRONG AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM, INCLUDING A RATCHETING UP OF ACTION OVER TIME



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## How do we get there?

Heads of State and Government must turn their attention to COP15, prioritize nature as a key element to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and address the climate emergency, and mark Montreal as a turning point where they agree to secure a future for all life on earth. Leaders must send the message loudly and clearly that the existential biodiversity crisis can and must be addressed at the same time as pressing socio-economic needs that result from the current challenging global economic situation. They should mandate their ministers and government teams to translate this ambition and apply a solution-focused approach in the negotiation room while addressing the biodiversity crisis at scale.

Engagement at the highest level of government is required to secure the overall ambition needed to address the biodiversity crisis (reverse biodiversity loss to be nature positive by 2030) and forge agreement on a number

of key unresolved issues (e.g. resource mobilization, implementation, and Digital Sequence Information). Such leadership will be essential to moving the negotiations to the conclusion of an ambitious and comprehensive GBF at COP15.

The Conference of the Parties, in [decision 14/34](#), established that the GBF process should be participatory, inclusive and transparent. Furthermore, WWF strongly believes that the organization of all CBD COPs, including COP15 and all its agenda items, must be based on full access and effective and equitable participation of all rights holders and stakeholders, such as indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and civil society organizations. Conversely, their exclusion renders negotiations more opaque and less effective and may lower the support for speedy and ambitious implementation of COP decisions.



# 1. A NATURE-POSITIVE MISSION

An ambitious mission that commits governments to ‘achieve a nature-positive world, by halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030’ must be the guiding light of the adopted agreement

In the face of accelerating biodiversity loss, the world urgently needs a shared global goal for nature capable of driving action across government, business and society. We already have a global goal for climate that commits all Parties to limit global warming to well below 2, preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. COP15 must be the moment when countries come together to agree on a similar global goal for nature for the benefit of all people and the planet.

Government representatives meeting in Montreal must ensure that the GBF is centered around an ambitious mission that commits governments to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 for a nature-positive world – meaning there is more nature at the end of this decade than at its beginning. This is not only necessary to prevent ecosystems reaching tipping points with catastrophic consequences for the stability of the planet and the survival of our civilization, but it is also possible thanks to the ability of nature to recover if given a chance.

To respond to the rapidly worsening biodiversity crisis, success must be defined by an agreed ambition that is based on science and existing multilateral commitments, is significantly higher than the Aichi targets and thus the 2020 biodiversity related targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that guarantees nature’s contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable

Development Goals and addresses the scale of the emergency. A ‘Nature Positive by 2030’ mission is critical to safeguarding health and livelihoods, as well as ensuring the pathway to limiting global warming to 1.5C remains open. A mission with lower ambition and less measurability will lead to failure on existing commitments and to address the biodiversity crisis at scale. It will also lead to more irreversible damage to biodiversity, in particular through species extinctions and habitat loss, and higher restoration efforts further down the line.

A mission statement that commits governments to ‘achieve a nature-positive world, by halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030’ in the GBF will offer a concise and easy to communicate guiding light for government, civil society and business, while inspiring public support and political momentum. More importantly, it will codify an overall measurable apex goal for nature that will ensure strong accountability for its implementation.

The aim to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 has already been committed to in several Heads of State and Government pledges, including the *Leaders’ Pledge for Nature* and the *Kunming Declaration*, the latter adopted during part one of COP15 in China, October 2021. Multiple leaders have also supported that halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 should be in support of achieving a nature-positive world.

## WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

All that remains is for Parties to the CBD to instill a nature-positive mission statement in the GBF. WWF supports any version of the mission that includes:

- the commitment to achieve a **nature-positive world**, by halting and reversing the loss of biodiversity by 2030.

# 2. SCALING UP CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION

More ambitious and inclusive conservation and restoration actions must be agreed to conserve at least 30% of land, inland waters and ocean globally

We are losing biodiversity at an alarming rate. [A million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction](#), many within decades; we have lost half of the world's corals and lose forest areas the size of 27 football fields every minute.

80% of remaining biodiversity is in the lands, waters and territories of indigenous peoples, and local communities, thanks to their stewardship, conservation and sustainable use of these areas.

One of the main policy instruments to slow the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of nature is the creation of protected or conserved areas. However, there is broad consensus that not enough land, freshwater, and sea is yet protected to reverse biodiversity decline. The global economy would also benefit from the establishment of far more protected and conserved areas on land and at sea than exist today. [Analysis of various scenarios](#) of conserving at least 30% of the world's land and ocean finds that the benefits outweigh the costs by a ratio of at least 5-to-1. Increasing protected and conserved areas will also contribute to species conservation. It will complement required increased action for species conservation, including

halting immediately human-induced extinction, increasing the abundance of native species by 2030, and addressing both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products.

Establishing protected and conserved areas and [other effective area based conservation measures](#) should focus on the right places, including Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), and include land areas, inland-waters and marine and coastal areas. To avoid establishing and maintaining [paper parks](#), i.e. protected areas with insufficient or inadequate management actions to make them effective tools for conservation, attention should be given to the quality of conservation outcomes by ensuring ecological representativeness, connectivity, effective management and equitable governance.

This target can and must only be achieved while securing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities on their lands and territories based on their Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), and recognizing their knowledge and leadership.

## WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

The GBF must lead to significantly increased conservation efforts by countries by including:

- A global target to conserve 30% of the earth, including land areas, inland-waters and marine and coastal areas by 2030, focussing on Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Ecologically and Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) while qualifying that rights are fully respected and secured and all of these areas are effectively managed and equitably governed.
- An ambitious target on restoration of natural and semi-natural ecosystems, beyond existing commitments, that would help ensure we deliver a nature-positive world by 2030.



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## 3. TACKLING OUR FOOTPRINT

A transformative and inclusive approach is needed to deliver a just transition in the productive sectors currently driving biodiversity loss

Unsustainable human activity is driving biodiversity loss. The amount of nature required for the production and consumption of materials and products – for our [food](#) and other goods, buildings, infrastructure – is known as our ‘footprint’ on the planet.

The GBF offers a unique opportunity to agree on collective action at the global level to incentivize a just transition of productive sectors, business and financial institutions, that supports jobs and livelihoods while protecting and restoring nature.

A just transition of key sectors impacting on biodiversity, including agriculture and food systems, presents many new and sustainable economic opportunities. It can create [green jobs](#) that contribute significantly to poverty eradication and health gains and ensure that we achieve an environmentally sustainable economy, which is essential to the wellbeing of current and future generations.

### WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

To tackle unsustainable production and consumption that drives biodiversity loss, the GBF must include:

- A commitment to halve the footprint of production and consumption by 2030, which will emphasize the importance of addressing our impact on the natural world.
- Targets for 2030 to transform key productive sectors and businesses, so that they work with nature rather than against it. Key sectors include agriculture and food systems, fisheries and aquaculture, forestry, infrastructure, mining and other extractive activities.
- Targets for 2030 to address consumption and pollution, which will reduce overall global consumption to return within planetary boundaries, eliminate plastic pollution and highly hazardous pesticides, halve the use of other pesticides, and halve nutrients lost to the environment.

# 4. RATCHETING UP ACTION

A strong implementation mechanism, in the mold of the Paris Agreement, is critical to hold countries to account and ensure action increases over time

To avoid a repetition of the failure to meet the Aichi targets, it is essential that a strong implementation mechanism is fully integrated in the framework, which allows for a ratcheting up of action over time. The mechanism must be effective and transparent and allow for an assessment of aggregated national actions towards the delivery of the framework's goals and targets. Reviewing progress, identifying gaps and ratcheting up action where needed will be key parts of this mechanism.

With such a guiding structure, the new GBF will have every chance of succeeding where previous agreements have failed. That's why including a strong implementation mechanism has to be a priority in the final agreed text of the framework. In addition, the details of the implementation mechanism should be adopted in a parallel decision at COP15, alongside the GBF.

## WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

WWF believes this implementation mechanism should include three core components: present, review and ratchet.

- **Present:** existing national biodiversity strategies must be improved upon and countries should put forward plans aligned with the GBF that translate all global goals and targets at country level.
- **Review:** assessing progress globally is a vital part of the process.
- **Ratchet:** to deliver on ambitious targets, following a review of progress, countries should increase action on the ground if they're not on track.

At the CBD COP15 in December, countries must agree on the steps for implementing the global biodiversity framework (planning, monitoring, reporting, review, ratcheting), including the timeline for progress between the adoption of the framework and 2030.

The Monitoring Framework for the GBF must also be adopted alongside the GBF at COP15. It should include a set of headline indicators that all countries must utilize in national reports.



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# 5. ADEQUATE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT

We need more money for nature. Developing countries must be key beneficiaries of increased finance. Adopting an ambitious GBF, in line with the biodiversity emergency, will necessitate the world to think on how to leverage the necessary finance.

The CBD's COP15 represents a historic opportunity to kick-start transformative change and reverse biodiversity loss this decade. But for any global plan for nature to succeed, it must be matched with sufficient financing. Key reasons for the failure of previous global biodiversity targets were inadequate resources and lack of accountability for implementation at the national level.

Resources from all sources - public, private, domestic, and international - must be significantly increased to close the biodiversity finance gap. Crucially we need to see an increase in public international finance for biodiversity to support developing countries to implement biodiversity actions and help unlock and scale up private investment. Biodiversity loss is a global crisis that affects us all and it must be addressed in global cooperation. In addition, all countries need to significantly step up domestic finance for biodiversity if we are to have any chance of securing a nature-positive world by 2030.

More money for nature alone will not be enough. A decrease of finance and investment that harms nature is also required. Sadly, governments dispense \$1.8 trillion a year in environmentally harmful subsidies. The new framework must include ambitious targets to urgently assess, reform and repurpose these harmful subsidies.

Research from the World Economic Forum shows that US\$ 44 trillion in economic value generation - around half of global GDP - is highly or moderately dependent on nature. That means, our economic and financial systems cannot function without healthy ecosystems. Yet we often take what we need from nature without including the cost of environmental degradation in prices and markets. All countries must properly value nature in economic decision-making and implement and scale up public incentives with nature-positive outcomes. There are many opportunities: every \$1 spent on nature restoration promises to deliver up to \$30 in economic benefits, and transitioning to a nature-positive economy could generate annual business value worth up to \$10.1 trillion and create 395 million jobs by 2030.

That is why aligning public and private financial flows with the goals and targets of the GBF - so that they incentivize nature-positive production, instead of harming nature - needs to be at the top of the financing discussion at COP15. And central banks and financial supervisors must actively address climate change and nature loss.

## WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

There is still much work to be done to close the global biodiversity finance gap and countries must now step-up: both adopting a comprehensive finance and resource mobilization strategy alongside the GBF and including ambitious and comprehensive resource mobilization targets in the framework are critical to successfully implementing new biodiversity actions that contribute to the promise of the UN Sustainable Development Goals - prosperity for all on a healthy planet.

- Substantially increased resources from all sources (including increased international biodiversity finance, e.g. through ODA, and domestic biodiversity finance, and public and private finance), commensurate with the size of the biodiversity finance gap.
- Ensuring that all financial businesses and financial institutions avoid negative impacts on biodiversity and increase their positive impacts, while reducing the biodiversity-related risks and dependencies of business and financial institutions.
- Identifying and repurposing of all harmful incentives, including subsidies.
- Actions to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of resource use, including through developing and implementing National Biodiversity Finance Plans which will help to assess funding needs and sources most effectively, and, importantly, achieve policy coherence across sectors to ensure that biodiversity financing in one area is not unintentionally countered by harmful spending elsewhere.

Provision of adequate resources must also include delivery of capacity building and technology transfer.







## 6. STRENGTHENING NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Nature holds the answers to many of the world's most pressing challenges, including achieving key health, poverty reduction, climate and economic objectives. The GBF must highlight the value of equitable and rights-based nature-based solutions (NbS) alongside ecosystem-based approaches.

Living in harmony with nature means recognizing both the contributions of nature to people and the reliance we have on these. High-quality NbS simultaneously address societal challenges and provide benefits for biodiversity. NbS should be implemented in accordance with strict standards such as the IUCN Global Standard for Nature-based Solutions.

NbS have been recognized formally by several global texts and agreements. A UNEA-5 resolution formally

adopted the definition of NbS as 'actions to protect, conserve, restore, sustainably use and manage natural or modified terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems, which address social, economic and environmental challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing human well-being, ecosystem services and resilience and biodiversity benefits.'

### WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

The GBF must include NbS alongside ecosystem-based approaches:

- At the forefront of the nature movement, the CBD should lead the way with the inclusion of NbS in the GBF, and ensure that they are rights-based and equitable to benefit all people and the planet.
- In this way, the CBD can help ensure that biodiversity and ecosystems are enhanced through NbS interventions, and strengthen its role as a global authority for nature, by emphasizing that NbS must safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. This can be achieved through including rights-based and equitable NbS alongside ecosystem-based approaches in the relevant targets of the framework.

### ONE HEALTH: GREATER ATTENTION NEEDED

To ensure the relevance of the GBF to addressing societal challenges, the framework should include the commitment to scale up implementation of the biodiversity-inclusive One Health approach, which recognizes the interlinkages between human health, wildlife and the environment. This includes action to address the nature-related drivers of the emergence and transmission of zoonotic diseases (which are also significant drivers of biodiversity loss). The rising trend in zoonotic diseases is driven by the degradation of our natural environment - through land degradation, wildlife exploitation, resource extraction, climate change, and other stresses.

# 7. AN INCLUSIVE AND RIGHTS-BASED PLAN

A human rights-based and whole-of-society approach must be integrated across the entire GBF, including the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

The GBF should integrate a human rights-based approach (RBA) to ensure the respect of human rights and the full, effective and equitable participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls, youth and other people in vulnerable situations. This is critical for a transformative GBF and the realization of a nature-positive world by 2030. The conservation of a substantial proportion of the world's biodiversity and its provision of essential goods and services to people largely depends on the customary institutions and management systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Taking a RBA, in the context of achieving global biodiversity targets, means that biodiversity policies, governance and management do not violate human rights, and that those implementing such policies

actively seek ways to support and promote human rights in their design and implementation. Duty-bearers must meet their obligations, and rights-holders must be supported to claim and exercise their rights.

Both in legal instruments and best practices, a RBA to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity is broadly regarded as a necessary condition for stopping biodiversity loss and degradation. It is an essential enabling condition for the resilience of systems of life, good health, and the use, management, restoration and conservation of natural resources. A RBA ensures that all conservation actors are recognized and supported in their effective contributions, and it helps establish more peaceful, inclusive and conducive circumstances by avoiding conflicts and the economic and social costs related with such conflicts.

## WWF RECOMMENDATIONS

Key RBA principles and building blocks that need to be covered by the GBF goals and targets include :

- The right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to land and resources, customary sustainable use and traditional knowledge and Free and Prior Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Intergenerational equity; gender equity and equality
- The full and effective participation of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, and youth
- Support for and protection of environmental human rights defenders.

A whole-of-society approach to implementing the GBF should include setting up or strengthening representative and inclusive multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral processes on biodiversity decision-making, conservation and sustainable use.



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