

PRESS RELEASE

UN Biodiversity Conference's High-Level Segment sees creation of Kunming Biodiversity Fund, adoption of Kunming Declaration, building political impetus for adoption of ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework

- Kunming Declaration demonstrates global commitment for ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- President Xi Jinping announces 1.5-billion-yuan commitment to establish the Kunming Biodiversity Fund
- GEF, UNDP and UNEP commitment to fast-track support to governments to prepare and update their NBSAPs and national financing plans for implementation of post-2020 framework
- Several countries announced increased international funding to support biodiversity
- Participation of UN Secretary-General, 9 Heads of State, HRH the Prince of Wales, and 99 ministers committing to global biodiversity agenda.
- Inspiring remarks from Youth, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and other stakeholders demonstrated wide-spread commitment to action for nature.

Montreal/Kunming, 13 October 2021 – The High-Level Segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-15) closed today with the adoption of the [Kunming Declaration](#), where Parties to the Convention committed to develop, adopt and implement an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that would biodiversity put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest, towards the full realization of the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature.” Critically, the framework would also include provision of the necessary means of implementation, in line with the Convention and its two protocols, as well as appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review.

The landmark post 2020 global biodiversity framework is due to be adopted at part two of the UN Biodiversity Conference in May 2022, following further formal negotiations in January 2022. The Declaration gives clear political direction for those negotiations.

The Declaration addresses key elements needed for a successful post-2020 framework: the mainstreaming of biodiversity across all decision-making; phasing out and redirection of harmful subsidies; strengthen the rule of law; recognizing the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and ensuring an effective mechanism to monitor and review progress; among others.

The High-Level Segment opened on 12 October with the announcement by Chinese President Xi Jinping setting the tone by investing 1.5 billion yuan (about \$230 million USD) to establish the Kunming Biodiversity Fund to support biodiversity protection in developing countries. He invited other countries to contribute. The government of Japan extended its Japan Biodiversity Fund by 1.8 billion yen (about 17 million USD).

During the meeting, the [Global Environment Facility](#), in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), announced their commitment to fast-track immediate financial and technical support to developing country governments to prepare for the rapid implementation of the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#)



once it is formally agreed next year at COP-15. The commitment from Japan to extend its funding will provide support for National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans.

The European Union noted the doubling of external funding for biodiversity. President Macron of France noted the commitment for 30% of climate funds to be used for biodiversity. The government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland also announced that a significant part of its increased climate funding will be directed towards biodiversity. A coalition of financial institutions, with assets of Euro 12 Trillion, committed to protect and restore biodiversity through their activities and investments.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said, “The adoption of the Kunming Declaration is a clear indication of the worldwide support for the level of ambition that needs to be reflected in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework to be finalized next spring in Kunming.”

“I also want to congratulate President Xi for the establishment of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund and look forward to more financial and technical commitments in support of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and its implementation.”

The Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and COP-15 President, Huang Runqiu, said: “Since the adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity as the first global agreement on biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, it has played an important role in promoting global biodiversity conservation and sustainable use. However, we are still facing a grim situation of unprecedented global species extinction. Biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation pose major risks to human survival and sustainable development.”

“As a part of COP-15, the High-Level Segment has signalled renewed political will to boost ambition, enhance collaboration and maximize opportunities for synergies across other multilateral agreements. The Convention on Biological Diversity must strengthen global biodiversity governance. China will continue to play a leading role building on the vision of ecological civilization for shared future for all life on Earth,” added Minister Huang.

The High Level Segment was marked by passionate calls from stakeholders for transformative action. In an inspiring intervention, Josefa Tauli, an Ibaloi-Kankanaey Igorot from the Cordillera Region in the Philippines asked, asked: “In this period that calls for nothing less than urgent, transformative action, my question to you is who are you and are you who you need to be.”

Summary of Round Table Discussions available at: www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15-HLS

NOTES TO EDITORS

Kunming Declaration: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/9c06/4639/c6170066e6b3dcd9acf7926e/cop-15-05-add1-en.docx>

Global Environment Facility, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme commit to fast-track support to governments to prepare for rapid implementation of post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/2021-gef-undp-unep-fast-track-support-post2020

Meeting documents: www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15-hls

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) on its third meeting (Part I): www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents

Draft One of post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework

WG2020 Co-Chairs, with support from the CBD Secretariat, have prepared 25 one-pagers as an information supplement to the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/first-draft-global-biodiversity-framework-one-pagers

Non state actors are encouraged to submit their commitments through the [Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#), to help advance our shared biodiversity goals and objectives.

Video link to meeting and feeds: www.cbd.int/live

About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 132 Parties.

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