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Countdown to decade-defining COP15: why it must be a turning point for nature and wildlife — and for us

From December 7th until December 19th state delegates, Indigenous Peoples and environmentalists from around the world will gather in Montreal for the biggest conference on biodiversity protections in more than a decade. States parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) will decide on the biodiversity targets to achieve by 2030.

The stakes couldn't be higher: the Earth is in the midst of a mass extinction event that threatens the existence of [one million species](#) and the systems they — and we — rely on. The natural world, when healthy, provides life-support systems for the billions of people who are part of it.

At best, the [CBD COP15 in Montreal](#) will culminate in a strong global deal that would serve as a starting point and roadmap for countries around the world to tackle the extinction crisis.

That is why Greenpeace is calling for a life-saving rehabilitation plan in Montreal that would:

- Recognize the urgency of the interconnected biodiversity and climate crises;
- Deliver a strong post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that includes protecting at least 30% of terrestrial and at least 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030 in a way that shifts power from extractive industries to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, [decolonises](#) our relationship with Nature and systemically protects biodiversity;
- Acknowledge and strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their lands and waters, including their right to informed consent. Recognising Indigenous rights and knowledge is essential to protecting our natural world;
- Mobilize countries' resources for biodiversity protection, end harmful subsidies to big polluters and exclude false solutions such as carbon offsets.

But the talks are already [at risk](#) due to [politicking](#) and a lack of priority and attention. That's why Greenpeace Canada is drawing attention to the talks and communicating what's at stake.

Greenpeace Canada is also calling on the Canadian government to step up, as host of these critical talks, and pass new legislation to protect Nature and Biodiversity in Canada. Canada [has failed](#) to fully meet its own 2020 biodiversity targets set in Aichi, 2010 — [a struggle that remains](#). Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has [confirmed](#) his attendance in

Montreal, but so far not convened heads of state or committed to strengthening law to protect biodiversity.

As host country, Canada has a unique opportunity and responsibility to lead the way. In our 2022 [Protecting Nature. Protecting Life](#) report, Greenpeace Canada makes the case for federal *Nature and Biodiversity Act* that:

- Specifies how exactly the government will achieve 30% protection of nature by 2030;
- Guarantees everyone's right to a healthy environment;
- Upholds the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, recognizing Indigenous knowledge as a science of the land;
- Mandates yearly progress reports from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change to inform the public on progress or delays;
- Provides public accountability mechanisms if targets are not met.

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