

Turning vision into implementation at CBD COP15

GREENPEACE

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The natural world, when healthy, provides life-support systems for the billions of people who are part of it. We need to care about the health of our planet as we would for our [own health](#). The [CBD COP15 in Montreal](#) presents a once-in-a-decade chance to pursue a new contract among humanity and nature, build up resilience to combat future epidemics, and help people and the planet recover.

Greenpeace [calls](#) on governments to agree on a life-saving rehabilitation plan for our planet at COP15. This requires an ambitious Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework which must include strong targets, a robust implementation mechanism, and the necessary finance.

Implementation and a CBD Rulebook

The CBD does not necessarily lack vision, but implementation. Most of the [Aichi targets](#) (2010-2020) were [not followed through](#) by national governments. Exacerbated by the overall lack of political attention to the biodiversity loss crisis, the CBD's institutional lack of attention to implementation has continued right into the current negotiations. In the run up to COP15, very limited time in the official negotiations has been dedicated to implementation.

Strengthening implementation needs to be a top priority at COP15. To deliver a credible outcome, countries need to both demonstrate a strong political commitment to implement all the post-2020 targets and develop a new set of rules to facilitate implementation.

Specifically, the post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework should specify that **all countries need to develop national targets that correspond to each of the post-2020 targets within one year after COP15 and start implementing these targets immediately.**

Domestic targets are necessary to establish a firm connection between global vision and national action. This enacts the political commitments of national governments to respond to a global challenge. National targets also bolster the commonality and comparability of national actions (every country will be conducting the same set of actions required by the targets).

Common and comparable national actions form the basis for more effective national reporting and review. At COP15, governments should also develop new guidelines and modalities for the [National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan \(NBSAP\)](#), as well as national reporting and

review, and a “ratchet mechanism” (in which countries can ramp up their action and ambition throughout the 2020s) should be developed. The quality, consistency, and comparability of the NBSAPs and national reports should be enhanced. Our detailed thoughts on this issue are outlined in Greenpeace’s official [submission](#) to the CBD.

Target Design

The targets of the new GBF will only be truly SMART (i.e., specific, measurable, ambitious, realistic, and time-bound) if the negotiations pay attention to shifting the underlying politics of target fulfilment, and not just the editorial exercise of crafting targets.

In this regard, the post-2020 targets should specify the actors, the expected actions, and the outcome. If the delivery of a target requires contribution from actors other than the parties to the Convention, then steps to get these stakeholders on board should be clearly laid out. A SMART target requires active ownership and should itself catalyze action.

The targets should also keep a strategic focus, be simple and straightforward, and consider CBD’s active role in their implementation.

Aichi did make some progress that COP15 should build on. [Aichi Target 11](#) established a percentage target for global protected areas that is both measurable and clearly establishes the CBD as the forum to deliver that target. Progress made on Aichi Target 11 should extend to **protect at least 30% of terrestrial areas and at least 30% of marine and coastal areas by 2030, through effectively- and equitably-managed, ecologically-representative and well-connected systems of fully- or highly-protected areas that respect and strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and ensure their full participation throughout the process.** Our detailed position regarding Target 3 of the draft GBF is outlined in Greenpeace’s [“Beyond 30x30”](#) briefing and more detail about our position on marine protected areas can be found in Greenpeace’s [submission](#) to the CBD.

Any conservation target without explicit respect for **Indigenous Peoples’ land rights and the full participation of IPLCs throughout the process** risks exacerbating systematic violence that these communities face alongside the destruction of nature. This is amoral and a human rights disaster. It is also ineffective conservation, as IPLCs have long been and remain among the most effective nature protectors and stewards of biodiversity. IPLCs are already effectively protecting biodiversity at the front lines of the global biodiversity crisis and any solution that displaces IPLCs or excludes them will contribute to biodiversity loss rather than reverse it.

Resource Mobilization

Implementation of the post-2020 targets will require governments and other actors to allocate more resources, use existing budgets more efficiently, and cut or redirect perverse subsidies that go into destructive industries. Some of these can only be achieved by systemic changes to the power structures of our society and economy.

Internationally, at least 100 billion USD should be provided annually by developed countries and others willing to do so to developing countries including through **direct access to funding for Indigenous Peoples and local communities**. This international support should be primarily based on public sources. COP15 is a critical opportunity to demonstrate solidarity. The COP15 Presidency (China) has pledged a USD \$230 million Kunming Biodiversity Fund to help developing countries and has called on other donor countries to contribute. This effort, while not enough on its own, is a first step in the right direction. Countries like the EU, Japan, France, UK, Canada, Norway, and Switzerland should demonstrate leadership. Previously, the [UK](#) and [France](#) announced designating a certain percentage of their climate finance for biodiversity purposes, which carries significant risk of double counting. This is not an adequate response to their responsibilities at COP15.

Governments must address subsidies to extractive and otherwise harmful industries and stop encouraging such business models through trade and investment. Governments must also act to stop fossil fuel, forestry, and big agricultural companies from insidious attempts to co-opt nature protection through “nature-based solutions” or offsets. Biodiversity offsets are not a substitute for real action to stop destruction of nature, just as carbon offsets are not a substitute for real emissions reductions. Biodiversity offsets risk becoming as big a scam as [carbon offsets](#). We don’t have time for these false solutions.

Greenpeace demands

- Governments must recognise the urgency of the interconnected biodiversity and climate crises and promote a shift of power that restores justice and empowers Indigenous Peoples and local communities to be the guardians of nature.
- Governments must ensure that COP15 delivers 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 through effectively- and equitably-managed, ecologically-representative and well-connected systems of fully- or highly-protected areas that respect and strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and ensures their full participation throughout the process, along with national plans to deliver these objectives.
- Any discussions and actions regarding the 30x30 goal must recognise and strengthen the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to their lands and waters, including their right to informed consent. Their identities, cultures, spirituality, and lifeways are inextricably linked to biodiversity, and expanding recognition of Indigenous and local land rights is essential to protecting our natural world.
- Countries need to mobilize their domestic resources for biodiversity protection. Perverse incentives such as harmful subsidies should be urgently cut. Internationally, at least 100 billion USD should be provided annually by developed countries and others willing to do so to developing countries. This international support should be primarily based on public sources and avoid double counting climate finance. Biodiversity offsets, carbon offset markets, and NBS are false solutions. Finance mobilized from these sources should not count.

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