

Press Release

For immediate release
6 October 2023

Global biodiversity experts gather in Montreal for the conference "Monitoring Biodiversity for Action"

When: October 10th - 13th

Where: Centre Mont-Royal, 2200 Rue Mansfield, H3A 3R8, Montreal

Who: GEO BON and the Convention on Biological Diversity

What: conference programme is at: <https://geobon.org/conf2023/schedule>

Almost one year after the world came to Montreal for the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15), 500 leading experts and stakeholders in the field of biodiversity science will come together in Montreal to attend the Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network's (GEO BON) 2023 Global Conference: "*Monitoring Biodiversity for Action*" between October 10 to 13, 2023.

The event will be co-hosted with the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

The conference will present the latest breakthroughs in the knowledge and science needed to monitor biodiversity change around the world and assess progress and guiding actions towards the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. (www.cbd.int/gbf)

The partnership between the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and GEO BON will foster the use of innovative technological and scientific solutions to address the biodiversity crisis. This joint conference is an opportunity to engage stakeholders from both organisations and beyond in working towards the common goal of protecting biodiversity for current and future generations.

The four-day conference (<https://geobon.org/conf2023/schedule>) will provide:

- **Unique insights:** The conference will feature presentations, discussions, and workshops by world-renowned scientists, policymakers, and conservationists. It will provide unparalleled access to the latest research, insights, and breakthroughs in biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts.
- **Expert interviews:** Reporters will have the opportunity to interview experts from diverse backgrounds, allowing them to gain exclusive perspectives on the most pressing biodiversity challenges and potential solutions discussed during the event.
- **Global impact:** The conference will focus on the critical role of biodiversity monitoring in shaping policies and actions to combat biodiversity loss, a topic of increasing global concern.



Convention on
Biological Diversity



“Our goal is to bring together the international community to present the latest breakthroughs in the knowledge and science we need to monitor biodiversity change. But also, to improve how we communicate science and to enhance the dialogue with other sectors as we need a whole-of-society approach to reach the new biodiversity targets.” Said Adriana Radulovici, Executive Secretary of GEO BON.

“We need a global biodiversity observing system to unite monitoring of biodiversity and to guide conservation action – without investment in monitoring countries won’t have the means to assess their progress to the targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework of the UN CBD.” said Andrew Gonzalez, co-Chair of GEO BON, and professor in Dept. of Biology at McGill University

“The GEO BON community was ahead of the curve in terms of realizing the value of biodiversity monitoring,” said David Cooper, Acting Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
“Over the last decade GEO BON has grown into the largest global network and community of practice of those involved in biodiversity observations. This is crucial for us to ensure that we achieve the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.”

Why It Matters to McGill: McGill University is the host institution for the GEO BON Secretariat. GEO BON is a global network spanning 141 countries and more than 2800 experts all dedicated to transforming how ecosystems are monitored to understand risks from biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse, and how to use that understanding to protect threatened biodiversity and restore degraded ecosystems. The GEO BON Global Conference reflects McGill’s commitment to research excellence in sustainability, biodiversity and environmental stewardship. McGill is a hub of cutting-edge research in biodiversity and conservation, and its participation in the conference reinforces its dedication to addressing critical global challenges.

Why It Matters to Canada: Canada, known for its rich biodiversity, recognizes the significance of preserving its natural heritage. The conference provides a platform for Canada to showcase its expertise in biodiversity monitoring and conservation while also learning from international experiences. Canada was host to COP 15 in December 2022; this conference follows on from that landmark conference by bringing together a large community dedicated to measuring and assessing the progress countries will make towards the biodiversity targets. Canada's involvement demonstrates its commitment to international leadership in this domain.

Why It Matters Internationally: Biodiversity loss is an urgent global issue that transcends borders. With climate change it is one of the twin crises of our time. The recent adoption of the UN CBD’s Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework brings the international community together around the common goal of reversing trends in biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation and protecting 30% of the Earth’s marine and terrestrial ecosystems by 2030. The GEO BON Global Conference, in partnership with the UN CBD, will promote international collaboration and knowledge sharing, ensuring that our progress can be measured and that solutions to these biodiversity challenges can be implemented and monitored by all parties of the Framework. By addressing these issues collectively, we can mitigate the negative impacts of our society on biodiversity worldwide.

Why We Are Well-Placed to Find Solutions: GEO BON and its co-host, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, share a wealth of expertise in biodiversity monitoring and conservation. As the largest expert network dedicated to monitoring biodiversity and ecosystem change, GEO BON is ideally

positioned to propose new strategies to measure and forecast biodiversity in order to guide conservation action.

Keynote speakers include:

- **Jeannine Cavender-Bares** (Distinguished McKnight University Professor - University of Minnesota)
- **Emily Darling** (Director of Coral Reef Conservation - Wildlife Conservation Society)
- **Joji Cariño** (Senior Policy Advisor - Forest Peoples Programme)
- **Paul Hebert** (Scientific Director - International Barcode of Life Consortium)
- **Jillian Campbell** (Head of Monitoring, Review and Reporting -UN Convention on Biological Diversity)

NOTES FOR EDITORS:

About GEO BON

The Group on Earth Observations Biodiversity Observation Network (GEO BON) (www.geobon.org) is a global network of 2800 researchers in 141 countries dedicated to improving the acquisition, coordination, and delivery of biodiversity information at the global, regional, and national levels. GEO BON plays a crucial role in advancing biodiversity monitoring and conservation efforts worldwide.

About the Convention on Biological Diversity

Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the Convention on Biological Diversity 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. www.cbd.int

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