

Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People

Report from the first Action Agenda Champion at COP15 to strengthen the Action Agenda to implement the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Montreal, 17 December 2022

1. Introduction

1. This report, from the first Action Agenda Champion, highlights and showcases the contributions of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming and Montreal Action Agenda for Nature and People in mobilizing all-of-society action that reverses biodiversity loss, supporting the sustainable use of biodiversity, and promoting the fair benefit sharing of genetic resources. It provides an overview of the unique role of the Action Agenda, summarizes prior outcomes and activities at COP15, and concludes with the steps made to strengthen the Action Agenda for it to support the implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework during this critical decade of action.

2. Context

2. Biodiversity loss is accelerating at an unprecedented rate, with the planet now facing significant risk of wide-scale extinction of species and ecosystem collapse.¹ These trends, if unabated, will significantly harm the basis for human well-being and flourishing. The window for halting and reversing these trends is nearing a dangerous tipping point, after which the stability of nature that humanity has depended upon to flourish will become irrecoverable.²
3. Governments have now gathered to come together and collectively decide on a new post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, which will set out how we can turn the tide to transform our relationship with nature within the remaining years available in this short decade. This framework will set the intention and identify the steps required to decisively halt biodiversity loss by 2030 – towards recovering biodiversity over the following two decades in realizing the vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050.
4. However, the outcomes of previous efforts make it clear that implementing these goals and targets cannot be accomplished by national governments alone. Instead, delivering the holistic transformations across society and the economy that are needed to halt and reverse biodiversity loss relies upon collective action taken among *all* actors across society, economic sectors, and levels.

¹ [IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)

² [CBD Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#)

3. The Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People

5. In recognizing the importance of a whole-of-society approach, at COP14 the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity – in collaboration with Egypt and China as the respective Presidencies of COP14 and COP15 – launched the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, in order to raise public and policy awareness about the urgent need to stem biodiversity loss and restore biodiversity health for the sake of humanity, the planet, and economic well-being.³
6. The Action Agenda serves as a key platform with which to connect the multilateral, Party-driven process with action taking place across society, in working to link voluntary action with the vision, goals, and targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework in order to deliver transformative change. Towards that end, the platform has worked to bring a diversity of stakeholders together across four pillars of action:
 - a. Promoting multi-stakeholder initiatives, coalitions and commitments in support of the goals under the Convention;
 - b. Strengthening engagement across different economic sectors;
 - c. Identifying high impact and scalable sectors and their commitments; and
 - d. Showcasing voluntary commitments on an online platform.
7. The following principles underpin the value-add of the Action Agenda in its unique position bridging state, sub-, and non-state actor action in support of the goals of the Convention:
 - a. *Partnership*: Catalyzing public-private collaboration and initiatives by providing a platform to connect the multilateral process with the activities led by different constituencies in support of the successful implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework;
 - b. *Convergence*: Identifying common goals and pathways for whole-of-society action under the Global Biodiversity Framework, streamlining implementation, stimulating collaboration, and catalyzing transformative action;
 - c. *Encouragement and informing*: Helping to raise awareness, ambition, and urgency among all actors across society by showcasing best practices, promoting innovation, demonstrating the benefits for acting, and highlighting progress;
 - d. *Legitimacy and credibility*: Where relevant, linking voluntary commitments to the multilateral process to provide credibility and accountability through establishing norms and mechanisms around best practices and encouraging the tracking and monitoring of actions; and
 - e. *Connectivity*: Linking transnational sector-based action with domestic implementation of targets to accelerate the transition of different economic sectors in an inclusive, holistic,

³ [COP14 Sharm El-Sheikh to Beijing Action Agenda for Nature and People](#); [COP14 Decision 18/34 recognizing Action Agenda](#); [SBI information document on the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#)

and integrative manner to support human well-being and address other connected issues including on climate, water, oceans and sustainable development.

8. In working to promote awareness and mobilize ambition, the Action Agenda additionally hosts an online portal of voluntary biodiversity action to showcase the breadth of ambition and action already underway. Since 2018, the portal has registered a total of 586 commitments across 271 partnership initiatives.⁴ The portal highlights actions taken by all stakeholders across society, identifying the geographic scope of the activities and the relevant category of action, including: food systems and health; freshwater, coastal and ocean ecosystems; conservation and restoration of land ecosystems; climate change mitigation and adaptation; conservation and sustainable use of special; sustainable consumption and production; stewardship; urban sustainability; green finance; biosafety; and access and benefit-sharing.
9. Commitments registered through the Action Agenda range from the establishment of multi-million dollar global funds to the development of stewardship guidelines and training for farmers, as well as guidelines, tools and knowledge products for major industries to apply responsible business models across value chains. Overall commitments include a combination of analytical, aspirational, cross-sectoral, and time-bound actions contributing to policy, planning, capacity development, management and outreach. Actors representing the agricultural and financial sectors have submitted the largest portion of commitments: over 500 business representatives and more than 100 finance institutions are associated with pledges profiled on the Action Agenda.

4. Action at COP15: supporting an “Ecological Civilization – Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”

10. Under the leadership of the governments of Egypt and China and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity, the actions collected under the Action Agenda makes it clear to governments in this Conference of Parties that there is irreversible momentum underway in the transition of our societies and economies towards a future of living in harmony with nature.
11. We have additionally seen throughout this Conference of Parties a wide breadth of action mobilized by all actors across society demonstrating their ambition and commitment towards transformative change, including their support towards a strong Global Biodiversity Framework and its implementation. Select actions, announcements, and outcomes include:
 - i. Constituencies, including indigenous peoples and local communities, cities and subnational authorities, NGOs, business and finance, women organizations, academia and research, and faith-based organizations, were convened together for the first time in a dedicated action zone, Place Québec, which ran throughout COP15 at the heart of the venue. The space facilitated vibrant cross-sectoral dialogues and interactions promoting collaborative action.

⁴ [Commitments portal for the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#)

- ii. The COP15 Youth Summit brought together hundreds of children and youth to organize, network, learn new skills, exchange knowledge and coordinate, feeding into strong youth engagement throughout the Conference to drive ambition, action, and robust solutions.
 - iii. Organizations gathered to showcase and share best practices and strategies for mainstreaming stronger biodiversity action awareness at the [Seventh Communication, Education and Public Awareness \(CEPA\) Fair](#), in support of the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
 - iv. Participants to the [Fourth Nature and Culture Summit](#) engaged in a substantive, multi-stakeholder dialogue on the intrinsic connection between biological and cultural diversity. Participants committed to work together to advance biocultural protection, preservation and resilience, focusing on implementing the new phase of the [Joint Programme of Work on the Links between Biological and Cultural Diversity](#).
 - v. Scientists, policy makers and other civil society stakeholders came together for the [Fifth Science-Policy Forum for Biodiversity](#) to discuss and make recommendations on how science, technology and innovation can contribute to the effective implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, highlighting the key factors for success and for scaling-up action to achieve measurable impacts on biodiversity at global scales.
 - vi. Policymakers from subnational governments, cities and other stakeholders came together at the [Seventh Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities](#) to discuss the role of regional and local governments in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework. Drawing upon the [Edinburgh Declaration](#), the [RegionsWithNature](#) and [CitiesWithNature](#) action platforms were launched to mobilize coordinated action among cities and regions in enhancing ecosystem restoration, biodiversity conservation and nature-based solutions.
 - vii. Business actors and other stakeholders convened together at the [Business and Biodiversity Forum](#) to hold an open dialogue on what business action on biodiversity really looks like, what policies are needed to scale up ambition, and what tools and solutions are available to support companies in moving away from business as usual. Robust discussions were held to understand the necessary enabling conditions and practices that encourage credible commitments and action by businesses. At the closing panel, Kering, L'Occitane and Mirova announced the launch of the [Climate Fund for Nature](#) which will mobilize resources from the Luxury Fashion and Beauty sectors to protect and restore nature, with a particular focus on women empowerment.
 - viii. The [Finance and Biodiversity Day](#) was held to provide a space for the global financial community and negotiating governments to discuss, share perspectives, and communicate on their action, achievements and commitments related to the integration of biodiversity within financial decision-making. This growing momentum on biodiversity financing was reflected in the launch of the [Nature Action 100](#) initiative, a global investor initiative focused on driving greater corporate ambition and action to reduce nature and biodiversity loss.
12. In agreeing on a Framework to guide the direction of global biodiversity action over the coming decade, governments are laying the ground rules for building an ecological civilization towards a

shared future for all life on Earth. As the ultimate delivery of this Framework rests on whole-of-society collaboration and action, the Action Agenda will play an important role moving forward to support actors implement the targets and goals of this Framework.

13. Key areas in which the Action Agenda will support the implementation of the framework include strengthening whole of society collaboration, mainstreaming biodiversity action, strengthening communication, education and awareness, strengthening capacity-building, driving innovation, and promoting best practices for transparency and accountability in voluntary biodiversity action.

5. Our commitment to the Action Agenda: a 2030 Nature Action Agenda to support implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

14. Recognizing the value of the Action Agenda as a major pillar in the implementation of the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Action Agenda will be strengthened in order to support the implementation of the post-2020 Framework through to 2030. Building on the success of the platform will allow whole-of-society action that assists countries implement their NBSAPs, address IPBES nature-loss drivers, and catalyze the society- and economy-wide transitions to fulfill the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
15. To support the continued success of the Action Agenda, and following from the appointment of Mr. Manuel Pulgar-Vidal as the first Action Agenda Champion during the Fourth Open-Ended Working Group in June 2022 by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the COP14 and COP15 Presidencies,⁵ the process of appointing Champions to lead the work of the Action Agenda and champion all-of-society biodiversity action in support of the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework will be continued through to 2030.
 - a. Two concurrent Champions will be appointed under the role, with a term of two years each that ensures a full year of overlapping terms to provide continuity;
 - b. With staggered terms beginning with the incumbent Champion, one Champion will be appointed by the COP Presidency, and the other appointed by the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity.
16. In serving as representatives to promote ambitious all-of-society biodiversity action in support of the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework, the Champions will be supported by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity to advance the Action Agenda to drive whole-of-society implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
17. In continuing from previous efforts,⁶ the Champions will work with the Friends of Action group to produce a 2023 workplan following COP15 to guide the activities of the Action Agenda in mobilizing collaborative action towards the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework.
18. Supported by the Secretariat of the Biological Convention and in collaboration with relevant expert partners, the Champions will produce an annual report on the activities of the Action

⁵ [Summary Report of Information Session on the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#)

⁶ [Background Note for Friends of Action Group of the Sharm El-Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#)

Agenda, highlighting the state of global biodiversity action among stakeholders other than governments and across all sectors, identifying key scalable initiatives and practices, assessing contributions and progress towards achieving the Global Biodiversity Framework goals and targets, and providing an opportunity for ensuring accountability to voluntary initiatives.

19. Initiatives, coalitions, and commitments from actors across society and economic sectors are encouraged to continue to register their actions within the current online Action Agenda portal, in demonstrating the groundswell of biodiversity action taking place across society and at all levels and economic sectors. The portal will continue to encourage actors to register initiatives, coalitions, and commitments that have high ambition, robust mechanisms for implementation, and credible monitoring and reporting processes.⁷
20. In building upon the success of promoting collaboration and highlighting all-of-society action at the Conference of the Parties, the Champions will work with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and Presidencies to continue organizing high-level Action Days to allow stakeholders to showcase transformative action and take stock of progress across thematic areas relevant to the delivery of the Global Biodiversity Framework. The results of these activities will continue to be presented by the Champions at a high-level event taking place at the conclusion of each COP.
21. Recognizing that the goals of the Global Biodiversity Framework require adopting a holistic approach, the Action Agenda and Champions will be positioned to collaborate closely with action being mobilized across the other Rio Conventions, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, and other relevant international and sectoral initiatives in order to complement action and ambition while reducing duplication of effort.

⁷ See SBI/3 informational document on the [commitments from actors other than national governments in the context of an enhanced planning, monitoring, review and reporting mechanism](#)