

## **Joint conservation organisations: Stocktake statement, CBD COP15, 10 December 2022**

**Delivered by Ishana Thapa, BirdLife International**

Thank you Chair. I am speaking on behalf of BirdLife, CI, Campaign for Nature, NABU, Panthera, RSPB, TNC, WCS, WWF and ZSL.

We were called to action by Secretary General Guterres at the Opening Ceremony: He asked this Conference to stop the “orgy of destruction” of nature. We are grateful to parties for their intense efforts over the past three days to get down to work. But we are not there yet. Not even close.

Critical issues remain unresolved. So we would like to remind parties that the GBF must include these six pillars:

1. **A mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to be nature positive by 2030**, with more nature at the end of the decade than at its start. This must be supported by ambitious, specific and **measurable** outcome-oriented goals, including a commitment to halt and recover species loss and retain and restore ecosystems under Goal A.
2. **A global target to protect and conserve at least 30% of the world’s lands and ocean by 2030**, emphasising the retention and restoration of ecological integrity and key areas for biodiversity, and ensuring effectiveness, connectivity, equitable management, and the rights and contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities.
3. **Clear language to curb the economic drivers of nature loss and ensure sustainable use**. We need a commitment to halve the footprint of production and consumption by 2030, and halt land- and sea-use change, underpinned by targets that transform the productive sectors that drive biodiversity loss.
4. **A comprehensive resource mobilisation package to implement the global biodiversity framework** and to stop funding the destruction of nature and invest in a nature positive world, including by ending and redirecting environmentally-harmful subsidies and fair and ambitious finance targets. There must be a substantial increase in new international biodiversity finance from all sources, including from developed nations to low- and middle-income countries.
5. **A strong implementation mechanism**. We are extremely concerned that negotiations on mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review are pointing towards postponing key elements to a later COP, and an incomplete mechanism that would repeat the failure of Aichi. We especially need Parties to deliver a clear signal that action will be increased over time if implementation is not on track.
6. **Key to achieving all of these priorities will be integrating the human rights-based approach into the OPERATIONAL elements of the framework**, such as the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in Goal B, now recognised as a universal human right by the UN General Assembly.

While we are pleased to see momentum building for a human rights-based approach to conservation and the accelerated pace towards convergence on an agreement, we have significant concerns regarding emerging attempts to weaken the framework, specifically the implementation mechanism and Target 1's essential component of maintaining ecosystems.

In the UN Secretary General's words, we must stop humanity from being "a weapon of mass extinction". Future generations will condemn us for wasting this last, critical chance. We have just days left to secure an "ambitious peace pact with nature." After four years of hard work, there is no excuse to leave Montreal without an ambitious, truly transformative and inclusive Global Biodiversity Framework.

Thank you.