

**Academia & Research Organizations
United Nations Biodiversity Conference 2024
Opening Statement**

Delivered by Felista S Tarimo (Ifakara Health Institute) and Audrey Wagner (University of Oxford)

[Read by Audrey Wagner, University of Oxford]

Thank you, Madam President,

I have the honor of speaking on behalf of members of Academia and Research Organizations participating in this Biodiversity Conference 2024. We would like to thank the Government of Colombia for hosting this pivotal meeting and the CBD Secretariat for the opportunity to contribute to this important process.

As the preamble and multiple articles of the Convention and its protocols recognise, Academia and Research are key to identifying and addressing threats and opportunities regarding the protection, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity. As Section C of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework states, open quotation, “the implementation of the framework should be based on scientific evidence and traditional knowledge and practices, recognizing the role of science, technology and innovation”, close quotation. We stand here today as representatives of Academia and Research, bringing together a diverse range of disciplines, worldviews, and regions.

[Read by Felista S Tarimo, Ifakara Health Institute]

We are committed to advancing evidence-informed decisions built on diverse knowledge systems to urgently address the multiple and interconnected drivers and impacts of biodiversity loss. Recalling what Her Excellency Minister Susana Muhamad said in the opening ceremony, we need to rethink our way of living with nature. We are here ready to listen to your needs and engage in meaningful collaborative actions. We are prepared to provide specific insights and support to Parties, policymakers, and observers.

Achieving the 2050 Vision of living in harmony with nature depends on unified, effective and immediate action from all sectors of society, including Academia and Research.

Thank you.

The following institutions have contributed and gathered views from the representatives of Academic and Research Organisations attending the UN Biodiversity Conference 2024, and have participated to the drafting of this opening statement:

American University School of International Service (DC)

California Academy of Sciences, USA

CB&M, Central South University, China

Centre for Tropical Livestock Genetics and Health (CTLGH)

Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn, Germany

College of the Atlantic

College of Marin

Colorado Natural Heritage Program, CSU

Colorado State University

Cornell University

DFG, German Research Foundation, Germany

Durham University, UK

Ecocitizen, Lëtzebuerg

Florida Atlantic University

French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development (CIRAD) France

German Federation for Biological Data (GFBio e.V.), Germany

Ghent University, Belgium

High Meadows Environmental Institute, Princeton University

Ifakara Health Institute

Imperial College London, UK

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI)KULeuven, Belgium

Leibniz Institute for Zoo and Wildlife Research (IZW), Germany

Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany

Leibniz Institute - German Collection of Microorganisms and Cell Cultures - DSMZ, Germany

McGill University, Québec, Canada

Newcastle University

Public Research and Regulation Initiative (PRRI)

Research Initiative for the Conservation of Biodiversity (FEEdA)

Rutgers University

Senckenberg Society for Nature Research

Stockholm University

Universidad de Burgos, Castilla y León, Spain

University of California, Davis

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA)

University of California, Natural Reserve System

University of California, San Diego (UCSD)

University of Cambridge, UK

University College London (UCL), UK

University of Oxford

Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada

University of Toronto, Canada