

PRESS RELEASE

Part one of UN Biodiversity Conference closes, sets stage for adoption of post-2020 global biodiversity framework at resumption in 2022

- *COP-15, part one, addressed critical areas of work, demonstrated capacity of countries to adjust to changes and advance on path towards global sustainability*
- *High Level Segment of the Meeting adopted Kunming Declaration, with countries committing to negotiate effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework due to be agreed in 2022*
- *Government of China established 1.5 billion-yuan (c.\$233 million) Kunming Biodiversity Fund*
- *Other commitments by governments and agencies will enable early implementation of the framework*
- *Interim budget approved, ensuring operations during the crucial months to come.*

Montreal/Kunming, 15 October 2021 – With the participation of almost 2918 delegates in Kunming, and 2478 connecting online, part one of the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP-15) closed today, setting the stage for the adoption of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework at the resumption of the meeting in spring 2022.

The conference's two-day High-Level Segment (12-13 October), which opened with the announcement by Chinese President Xi Jinping of the 1.5 billion-yuan (about \$233 million) Kunming Biodiversity Fund, saw the adoption of the [Kunming Declaration](#), where Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) committed to negotiate an effective [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#) that can bend the curve of biodiversity loss.

The landmark framework, due for adoption at the resumption of the UN Biodiversity Conference in May 2022 following further formal negotiations in January 2022, gives clear political direction for those negotiations.

Important initiatives and commitments introduced during the meeting included the announcement by the Global Environment Facility, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme, that they will fast-track financial and technical support to developing country governments to prepare for the rapid implementation of the [post-2020 global biodiversity framework](#).

Moreover, the European Union announced it is doubling external funding for biodiversity; President Macron of France committed 30% of climate funds to be used for biodiversity; the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland announced that a significant part of its increased climate funding will be directed towards biodiversity; the Government of Japan announced a 17 million USD extension to its Japan Biodiversity Fund; and, a coalition of financial institutions, with assets of 12 Trillion Euros, committed to protect and restore biodiversity through its activities and investments.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, said, “With the conclusion of the first part of COP-15 we have taken a critical step towards writing a new chapter for our planet and for our societies.”

“The adoption of the Kunming Declaration, and the strong political direction provided by many ministers has put us firmly on the path to the adoption of an effective post-2020 global biodiversity framework that will engage the entire world in the task of putting nature on a path to recovery by 2030. Further, the Government of China’s announcement of the Kunming Biodiversity Fund, and the joint commitment by the GEF, UNEP and UNDP, among other commitments, gives us confidence that the new framework will be rapidly implemented”.

The meeting also saw China assuming the role of COP-15 Presidency, the adoption of an interim integrated budget for 2022 for the Convention, the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, and a progress report from the co-chairs of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Many non-State actors participated the meeting, ensuring good participation of a wide range of stakeholders.

The Minister of Ecology and Environment of China and COP-15 President, Huang Runqiu, said: “The construction of ecological civilization is related to the future of mankind. Building a green home is the common dream of mankind. At present, the rate of global species extinction is accelerating. The loss of biodiversity and ecosystem degradation pose a major risk to human survival and development. Global environmental governance is facing unprecedented challenges. The international community must work together to strengthen cooperation in the construction of global ecological civilization and biodiversity conservation in order to achieve sustainable world development and all-round human development.”

“As the president of the fifteenth meeting of the conference of the parties to the Convention on biological diversity, I sincerely hope that representatives will continue to maintain this valuable spirit of cooperation at the second phase of COP15, give strong support to my work and jointly promote the process of the Convention on biological diversity. I will also earnestly perform my duties as president of COP15, work together with all parties, translate consensus into practical action, and actively promote the achievement of important achievements such as the post-2020 global biodiversity framework” he said.

Global leaders participating in the conference included Chinese President Xi Jinping, Egypt President Abdul Fattah al-Sisi, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, French President Emmanuel Macron, President Carlos Alvarado Quesada of Costa Rica, Prime Minister James Marape of Papua New Guinea, HRH The Prince of Wales, and UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

NOTES TO EDITORS

Kunming Declaration: www.cbd.int/doc/c/c2db/972a/fb32e0a277bf1ccfff742be5/cop-15-05-add1-en.pdf

Global Environment Facility, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme commit to fast-track support to governments to prepare for rapid implementation of post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/2021-gef-undp-unep-fast-track-support-post2020

Meeting documents: www.cbd.int/conferences/2021-2022/cop-15-hls

Ministerial roundtables: www.cbd.int/meetings/COP-15-HLS

Report of the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (WG2020) on its third meeting (Part I): www.cbd.int/conferences/post2020/wg2020-03/documents

Draft One of post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework

WG2020 Co-Chairs, with support from the CBD Secretariat, have prepared 25 one-pagers as an information supplement to the first draft of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: www.cbd.int/article/first-draft-global-biodiversity-framework-one-pagers

Video link to meeting and feeds: www.cbd.int/live

About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD 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. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 132 Parties.

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