

## 2050 CBD Vision

### Background

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) aims to ensure the conservation, sustainable use and equitable sharing of the benefits of biological diversity. Securing Earth's biological diversity is a moral obligation. It is also critical in averting catastrophic climate change and ecosystem collapse. Achieving the aims of the Convention on Biological Diversity is integrally linked with tackling climate change and is critical for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals, as a diverse and healthy planet and is the foundation of human health, security, well-being and development.

### The 2050 Global Deal for Nature

Scientific studies show the need to link the goals and actions of CBD and UN Framework Convention on Climate Change: as of 2018, less than half of the terrestrial realm is intact, and more than half of the ocean is targeted by fishing, yet conserving all native ecosystems – coupled with energy transition measures – will be required to remain below a 1.5° C rise in average global temperature. In fact, science tells us that to achieve the 1.5° C limit and avert the worst impacts of climate change, we must halt deforestation and conversion of natural habitats by 2030, in line with the ratified UN Sustainable Development Goals. In addition, a large ecosystem restoration effort is necessary to deliver an average of 4-5 Gt CO<sub>2</sub> in negative emissions per year through the end of the century.<sup>1</sup>

We believe that CBD COP15 in China in October 2020 must result in an agreement with a clear target that is easy to understand by the public and political leaders alike, that is measurable, actionable, and based on the Aichi framework. Everything that CBD aims to achieve (e.g., halting extinction, preserving ecosystem services) must fall under this umbrella target.

We call for protecting and restoring half of the Earth in its natural state, with integral, functioning, and connected ecosystems that continue to provide for humanity and the rest of life on the planet. Building upon Aichi target 11, area-based targets should be “ecologically representative” with minimum targets set for each of the world's ecoregions. Some ecoregions with “particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services” will have much higher targets than others.<sup>2</sup> Therefore we call for science-based targets that set aside political demarcations and are guided by a global prioritization analysis including, but not limited to, biodiversity resilience, carbon storage, and water security values.

In particular, we call for a milestone of 30% of Earth to be protected by 2030, and an additional 20% designated as Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs). The continued leadership of Indigenous Peoples and local communities – as well as the importance of traditional and local knowledge – and their critical role in achieving a sustainable future should be implicit in the OECMs.

To meet this vision, the entire planet must be managed sustainably, supported by truly sustainable production and consumption, a circular economy, and the sustainable and equitable sharing of benefits from nature.

### Signatories:

National Geographic Society  
Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation  
Wyss Foundation  
Resolve  
Center for Large Landscape Conservation

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<sup>1</sup> Teske, S. (Ed., Achieving the Paris Climate Agreement, New York, Springer, 2019 (in press)

<sup>2</sup> Dinerstein, E. et al. A Global Deal for Nature. Science Advances (in review)