

Global Goals CEOs respond to final Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

December 19th 2022

The following organizations are part of a community that has developed and is advocating for a nature-positive global goal. On December 19th 2022 the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was agreed by Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. It contains a Mission to halt and reverse nature loss, as part of its 2030 framework. This is aligned with and in support of nature-positive - the global goal for nature. The following organizations provide quotes to welcome the Framework and its Mission.

Marco Lambertini, Director General of WWF International:

“Agreeing a shared global goal that will guide collective and immediate action to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 is an exceptional feat for those that have been negotiating the Global Biodiversity Framework, and a win for people and planet. It sends a clear signal and must be the launch pad for action from governments, business and society to transition towards a nature-positive world, in support of climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals.”

“The agreement represents a major milestone for the conservation of our natural world, and biodiversity has never been so high on the political and business agenda, but it can be undermined by slow implementation and failure to mobilize the promised resources. Governments have chosen the right side of history in Montreal, but history will judge all of us if we don’t deliver on the promise made today.”

Jennifer Morris, The Nature Conservancy, CEO, commented: “It’s taken time to get here but governments have signed a once-in-a-decade agreement to halt the destruction of Earth’s ecosystems and to protect people and species. We were looking for a global agreement that would transform our relationship with nature. Agreeing to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 puts the issue squarely on the table with a clear deadline for all of society. If implementation moves at pace, and funding flows where it’s needed then we can look back on this snowy historic day in Montreal and say yes, I remember the moment when humanity decided to put nature first.”

M. Sanjayan, CEO, Conservation International: “With the historic agreement signed at COP15, we find ourselves at an inflection point: The world has charted a course to stop the loss of nature by 2030. This is no small feat and not a moment too soon. We have an ambitious plan to protect a third of our land and seas. Finally, we’re acknowledging that biodiversity and the food, water, air and climate stability we rely on are interconnected – we can’t save one without the others. And, at last, the world is recognizing Indigenous peoples’ and local communities’ rights – affirming that their stewardship is essential to protecting the nature we all need. The Global Biodiversity Framework outlines our collective path forward — and also clarifies where we fall short. There is more to be done to meet the scale of the crisis and close the \$700 billion biodiversity funding gap. And while 30 percent of land and sea is a necessary ambition, it must be our baseline. The burden now shifts — from negotiating agreements to implementing solutions. I leave Montreal energized by the course we’ve set: This is not the end, but the beginning. We have the map. We’re at the starting line. The hard work continues.”

Patricia Zurita, CEO, BirdLife International Like all my colleagues who fight the forces which are devastating the planet, the BirdLife family and I welcome the Global Biodiversity Framework finally agreed to in Montreal. Its clear ambition to reduce and halt the loss of nature by 2030 is indeed a goal worthy of a nature-positive global future. The recognition that species declines need to be addressed in order to halt and reverse biodiversity loss is also a win – with a commitment to take urgent management action to halt species extinction and to substantially reduce extinction risk by 2030. However, and disappointingly, no concrete measurable elements to hold governments accountable appear. The finance package includes elements that are positive, beginning to close the finance gap for nature. We need more and we need it faster. So we will continue, as we have been doing relentlessly, to drive forward implementation at pace of these goals, and more, to create and build even more momentum globally in our shared struggle to save our planet, its future, our future.

Mark Gough, CEO, Capitals Coalition commented: The Kunming-Montreal agreement is a truly historic moment that places the value of nature at the heart of the international agenda and offers hope to billions of people around the world. While agreements at this scale and between so many Parties are never perfect, the Global Biodiversity Framework places us on a clear pathway to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030. The agreement will catalyze action from across society and the global economy,

with business accountability embedded alongside enhanced resource mobilization and clear recognition of the role of indigenous peoples. It is now critical that implementation starts today and that promised resources are rapidly mobilized to ensure effective delivery.

Eva Zabey, Executive Director, Business for Nature:

"The Global Biodiversity Framework agreed at COP15 in Montreal is a wake-up call for businesses and financial institutions. Those not already assessing and disclosing their risks, impacts and dependencies, will need to get ready. This is recognition from governments that business as usual is economically short-sighted, destroys value over the long term and will no longer be accepted. This strong signal along with a promise from governments to reform all environmentally harmful subsidies and a mission to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 will contribute to transforming our systems to reward positive actions on nature. Businesses must step up quickly and focus on implementation at a national level. A special thanks to the CBD Secretariat and the Global Biodiversity Framework co-chairs for delivering a Global Biodiversity Framework which really does take a whole-of-society approach."