



# Countdown to CBD COP15: Landmark Leaders Event for a Nature Positive World

## *Securing an agreement to save our life support systems*

20 September 2022, WCS Central Park Zoo, High Level week of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly

### CO-HOST SUMMARY

#### Introduction

1. On 20 September 2022, the Leader's Pledge for Nature (LPN) Core Group and the co-chairs of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People (HAC) and the Global Ocean Alliance (GOA) worked together to deliver 'Countdown to CBD CoP15: Landmark Leaders Event for a Nature Positive World' on the occasion of the high level week of the 77th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA-77). The [event press release](#), [event programme](#) and [videos](#) can be found on the [Leaders' Pledge for Nature](#), the [High Ambition Coalition for Nature & People](#), and the [Nature for Life Hub](#) websites. **This summary provides an overview of the key messages, ambitious actions showcased and announced, and proposed next steps.**
2. The event was co-hosted by a cross-regional group of countries and partners (listed at the end of this document). The objective of the event, which included participation from 29 representatives from across countries and non-state actors, was to highlight the urgency and importance of agreeing an ambitious and transformational Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) at CBD COP15 in order to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The event fulfilled a commitment within the LPN and last year's leader-level UNGA-76 event to meet at UNGA-77 to review progress, reaffirm objectives and showcase and encourage ambitious action across the growing membership of the 3 coalitions<sup>1</sup>.
3. Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau, as host of CBD COP15, opened the event by calling on the world to mobilize by 2030 to halt and reverse biodiversity loss and protect at least 30% of the world's land and ocean. 8 Heads of State<sup>2</sup>, 8 Ministers<sup>3</sup>, 5 high-level and senior UN officials<sup>4</sup>, and 8 leaders from Indigenous peoples and local communities, the finance sector, philanthropy and civil society<sup>5</sup> delivered statements during the event which was moderated by Ms. Andrea Meza, Deputy Executive Secretary of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD). A number of these leaders also participated in live panel discussions on 'Conserving, Restoring and Sustainably Using Nature to be Nature Positive by 2030' and 'Greening and Bluing Finance and Financing Green & Blue'. The event was attended by over 200 high level dignitaries and watched by over 1500 viewers online.

<sup>1</sup> The 3 coalitions now represents 139 countries: the HAC for N&P now has more 104 members (including the European Commission) the GOA has 72 members (including the European Commission), and the LPN has 94 endorsers (including the European Commission but not yet including Australia who announcing endorsement to the LPN during the event).

<sup>2</sup> Australia, Bhutan, Canada, Ecuador, European Commission, Fiji, Finland, New Zealand

<sup>3</sup> Colombia, Costa Rica, China, European Commission, France, Gabon, Germany, UK

<sup>4</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), United Nations (UN), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

<sup>5</sup> Domini Impact Investments (on behalf of Finance for Biodiversity Pledge), European Investment Bank (EIB), Global Environment Facility (GEF), GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), Indigenous Leadership Initiative, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIBF), International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)

## Key messages

4. **Leaders sent a clear message that securing an ambitious, nature positive GBF in Montreal at the CBD COP15 in December is a top priority for their countries and organisations.** Despite the challenging global context, they presented an urgent economic and development case for a nature positive world whereby failing on nature will also inevitably lead to failures for our economies, sustainable development, climate, security and human health.
5. **Leaders emphasised the need for a goal to protect and conserve at least 30% of the planet by 2030 to be a central pillar of the GBF, alongside targets to restore and sustainably use nature.** The crucial stewardship role of indigenous peoples and local communities was also highlighted by several leaders, including Ms. Jennifer Tauli Corpuz of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIBF) and Valérie Courtois, Director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative (see 9g).
6. **Despite previous and new funding announcements and positive signals, Leaders agreed that achieving a nature positive world will require further ambitious actions to unlock further funding from all sources (see 9a on the *Political Vision: The 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity below*).** It was emphasised that mobilising resources from all sources - international and domestic, public and private, as well as philanthropic funding - is critical to financing nature recovery and securing an ambitious GBF this year. Germany and the EU paved the way with new announcements (see 9b and c). However, many Leaders alluded to the fact that the scale of finance that can be released from even partial realignment of global financial flows towards nature dwarfs what additional money would deliver. That is why it is fundamental that economies transition to becoming nature positive, including by realigning harmful subsidies and global financial flows, increasing domestic budgets, greening sovereign debt, and making sure that all private and public sector flows do no harm and start to do better (see 9i-l).
7. **Ensuring support for the implementation of the GBF was also highlighted as a key issue that, coupled with lack of and access to adequate finance, could stand in the way of the agreement of an ambitious GBF and weaken our ability to drive real change on the ground in the crucial decade ahead.** It is against this context that welcome announcements were made on the future of the HAC (see 9d), on a new GBF Accelerator (see 9e), and the permanent funding model and local leadership approach of the Enduring Earth partnership was showcased (see 9g).
8. **Finally, Leaders underlined that the environmental crises of climate change, drought and land degradation, pollution, and an increasing incidence of zoonotic diseases are all interlinked and united by one thread: nature.** Therefore, without conserving, restoring, and sustainably using nature, and investing in it, humanity loses the opportunity to tackle these environmental crises and to save the life support systems that humanity depends on, including our economies. As highlighted by President Trudeau of Canada, protecting nature is about “protecting our shared future” and as the President of Bhutan mentioned, “the war on nature is a war on ourselves” The GBF is in fact a holistic framework that covers far more than just biodiversity loss, and holds the key to tackling all the environmental and social crises that we face - that is why ensuring an ambitious and transformational GBF at CBD COP15 is so crucial.

## Ambitious actions and announcements

9. The following key actions were showcased and announced during the event:
  - a. **H.E. Mr. Guillermo Lasso (President of Ecuador):** Announced a *Political Vision: The 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity*. The Plan, co-developed by the Governments of Ecuador, Gabon, Maldives, and the United Kingdom, sets out a political level vision for the actions that need to be taken across the whole of society to bridge the biodiversity finance gap in the next decade. Initial 16 endorsers include Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Czechia, Denmark, Ecuador, the EU, France, Gabon, Germany, Luxembourg, Maldives, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, and the UK.

- b. H.E. Mr. Frans Timmermans (Executive Vice-President of the European Commission) and Ursula von der Leyen (President of the European Commission):** Recalled their commitment to double biodiversity funding internationally and presented the EU new legislative proposal on nature restoration targets. Following the event on 24th September, President Ursula von der Leyen, announced a [€7 billion investment in biodiversity protection worldwide](#). The EU will now dedicate 7.5% of annual spending under the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework to biodiversity in 2024, and 10% in 2026 and 2027.
- c. H.E. Mr. Olaf Scholz (Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany):** Announced that Germany is increasing its international biodiversity funding to €1.5 billion per year. This is an increase of €0.87 billion from the German government's average funding between 2016-2020, representing the highest total international yearly financial commitment from all industrialized countries to date on biodiversity conservation.
- d. H.E. Mr. Arnaldo Andre Tinoco (Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica on behalf of the President of Costa Rica):** Announced the next phase of the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC 2.0) in support of the implementation of the protection of at least 30% of land and ocean beyond CBD COP15. This support will take place through four main pillars: maintaining and increasing political engagement; sharing best practice and knowledge and OECMs including mutual collaboration and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities; establishing partnerships to help provide technical and mapping support; and helping countries identify and pursue available funding.
- e. H.E. Susana Mohamed (Minister of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia on behalf of the President of Colombia):** Announced an Accelerator to support implementation of the GBF. The Accelerator aims to facilitate access to finance, technical assistance, and capacity building for implementation in developing countries in support of biodiversity action with the participation of local communities.
- f. H.E. Ms. Bérange Couillard (Minister of State for Ecology of France):** Recalled a doubling of France's external aid to biodiversity projects to reach 1 billion Euros per year by 2025, and underlined the importance of unlocking further finance for nature and supporting operation efforts. This was supported by the announcement on the HAC 2.0 Platform (9d) for which France is a co-chair, and support for the 10 Point Plan for Financing Biodiversity (9a).
- g. Valérie Courtois (Director of the Indigenous Leadership Initiative):** Demonstrated the transformative potential of innovative conservation financing tools and partnerships, including Project Finance for Permanence, Enduring Earth and Indigenous Leadership Initiative, to support and sustain a new global model of Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship in Canada and around the world.
- h. Carlos Manuel Rodriguez (President and CEO of Global Environment Facility):** Recalled the recent record replenishment of nature positive investments at the centre of their new funding cycle and emphasised that it would contribute to supporting countries in realigning all financial flows with climate and nature.
- i. Mr. Ambroise Fayolle (Vice-President, European Investment Bank):** Recalled the COP26 MDB Joint Statement on Nature, People and Planet and trailed that an update would be given at COP27 and COP15. He also outlined steps EIB are taking towards nature positivity including a new standard that ensures no loss of biodiversity, integrating values of biodiversity in the economic assessment of projects, and financing the protection of biodiversity by sustainability awareness bonds.
- j. Cristián Samper (CEO of the Wildlife Conservation Society):** Recalled the historic pledge of \$5 billion USD made last year by the Protect our Planet challenge, and reported that in 2021, the 11 partners invested more \$625 million, and are this year, investing \$500 million to nature, bringing the a grand total spent to \$1 billion by the end of the year.
- k. Carole Laible (CEO of Domini Impact Investments):** Announced that the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation will engage with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action to address the importance of and take urgent action towards aligning financial flows with the GBF in the run-up to COP15. Measures include setting disclosure regulations, requiring transformation pathways, integrating nature into regulatory frameworks, supporting central banks and financial supervisors, and creating economic incentives for businesses and the finance sector to incorporate nature into their decision making.
- l. Ms. Lisa Martin (GSK Chief Procurement Officer):** Announced GSK's Sustainable Procurement Programme which requires suppliers to take action on nature; they also expressed support for a mandatory requirement for all large companies to assess and disclose

their impacts and dependencies on biodiversity by 2030, as part of a transformative COP15 agreement.

## Next Steps

- 10.** Looking ahead, the co-hosts **recommend** that all members of the LPN, HAC for N&P, and the GOA:
- Align their efforts in the immediate future to ensure **UNFCCC COP27** is a success, with a strong focus on nature, and urge all leaders to continue making ambitious announcements at this summit;
  - Ahead of **CBD COP15**, focus **their collective efforts and take specific actions to help raise ambition within the GBF**, including: protecting and conserving at least 30% of the land and of the ocean globally by 2030, addressing drivers of biodiversity loss from the economy to consumption and production well within planetary boundaries, agreeing an ambitious approach to implementation, and mobilising sufficient finance from all sources to achieve these outcomes;
  - Meet again at **CBD COP15** at the highest level possible to **secure the agreement of an ambitious and transformational GBF that truly commits society to halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 and being nature positive by 2030.**
  - Meet again at **UNGA-78** to review progress since UNGA-77, reaffirm their objectives, and provide an opportunity to showcase and encourage further ambitious action.

### PRESENTED BY



### CO-HOSTS



BHUTAN

Canada

CANADA



GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA

COLOMBIA



COSTA RICA



República del Ecuador

ECUADOR



EUROPEAN UNION



FRANCE



GABON



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection

GERMANY



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### PARTNERS



CAPITALS COALITION



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL



Enduring Earth



Finance for Biodiversity Foundation



GLOBAL COMMONS ALLIANCE  
A PLAN FOR THE PLANET



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



NATURE FOR LIFE  
TOWARD A DECADE OF HOPE & TRANSFORMATION



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