



*Achieving an equitable, nature-positive, carbon-neutral world*

**Outcome Document Summary**  
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We must not fail in this unmissable opportunity to agree on an ambitious post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). The GBF must include a clear, measurable mission of being nature-positive by 2030, and of halting and reversing nature loss towards an equitable, nature-positive and carbon-neutral world for all.

### **INTRODUCTION**

From September 4 to 9, 2021, the Post-2020 Partnership - an international coalition of 30 organisations representing conservation, rights, development, Indigenous Peoples, local communities and representatives from youth, business and finance, philanthropy and international organisations - hosted a six-day conference at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Marseille, France.

The Post-2020 Partnership Pavilion's theme was an "equitable, nature-positive, carbon-neutral world" and 130 representatives from diverse constituencies from over 60 countries convened to discuss critical related challenges in the ongoing post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) negotiations, and to identify the ambition gaps and solutions for redressing them before the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) COP-15 and to explore how these issues relate to the concept of eco-civilisation. This document outlines the key messages that emerged from the Post-2020 Partnership Pavilion.

### **THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE**

**The science is now unequivocal that we are in a red-alert situation** - The latest IPCC and IPBES reports confirm the impending catastrophic impact on humans from climate disruption and biodiversity loss, unless we act now. Humanity is crossing biophysical thresholds that are necessary for our survival, and as a result, we have now entered a decisive decade. If we have any chance to prevent the loss of more than one million species, keep global warming under 1.5°C, significantly reduce the next pandemic of zoonotic origin, and foster a standard of living that maintains human dignity and leaves no one behind, we must halt and reverse biodiversity loss and cut emissions by half over the next nine years. This must start now.

**Drivers of loss are not being properly addressed** - We will not be successful in reversing biodiversity loss unless the GBF addresses the key drivers of loss, including climate change, species over-exploitation, and habitat conversion and destruction. All of these are driven by unsustainable exploitation, production and consumption, environmentally damaging extractive and infrastructure industries, as well as weak governance and growing socioeconomic inequality. Indeed, agriculture is the single biggest current threat to terrestrial biodiversity due to unsustainable land use practices in many places.

**Money is flowing in the wrong direction** - To make matters worse, we are currently investing huge amounts of public and private money in activities that harm nature rather than conserving and protecting it. If we do not change the movement of money we will finance ourselves into extinction.

**Equity and rights are not adequately considered** - The failure to achieve a nature-positive world and greater social equity has grave consequences for both human survival and human rights, including the right to life, water and sanitation, food, culture, health and development, and a healthy environment. It is equally important to ensure the recognition and respect of the rights, efforts and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. For example, as much as 80% of the world's remaining forest biodiversity lies within Indigenous Peoples' territories. Indigenous Peoples and local communities sustainably manage their territories, lands and resources. And yet they continue to fight for rights to their lands, often risking their lives in the process. Global biodiversity goals are simply unattainable and unachievable without the full inclusion of IPLCs and recognition of their rights and responsibilities.

## **THE ACTION NEEDED**

**Time for transformative change** - We need a transformative shift in our relationship with nature to create an equitable, nature-positive, carbon-neutral world. Humanity must recognise the intrinsic value of nature, and our unity and interdependence with the greater Earth community. By embedding a more reciprocal relationship with nature into all spheres of decision making, we can ensure that nature is treated as a sustainable source of life rather than just a resource to be extracted and exploited.

**Create a new conservation approach** - Governments and non-state actors should embrace an inclusive approach to conservation that ensures that the right to a healthy environment is at the core of the GBF. This is critical not only to conserve biodiversity but also to ensure the fulfilment of human rights for all, and to prevent the next pandemic of zoonotic origin. A more inclusive, just and sustainable approach to safeguarding and restoring biodiversity is the only way forward, especially because Indigenous Peoples, people of African descent, local communities, peasants, rural women and rural youth are all key partners in protecting and restoring nature. We also have a moral duty to youth and future generations to ensure their right to a relationship with nature and a healthy, liveable environment. Currently, none of these constituencies are adequately prioritized in the GBF.

It is equally important for the new approach for conservation and sustainable development to be based on the different conditions of terrestrial land, of inland water and of coastal and marine areas that each country has, with a focus on sites of particular importance for biodiversity, in well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures.

**Effective protected and conserved areas are critical** – To sustain biodiversity and the livelihoods of Indigenous Peoples, help combat the climate crisis and reduce the risk of zoonotic disease outbreaks, by 2030 we must effectively conserve and equitably govern at least 30% of our planet's land and sea areas (through protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures). This means focusing on

key biodiversity areas and the most highly intact ecosystems and respecting and securing the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), as well as sustainably and equitably managing the rest. We will fail in supporting Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, or achieving a nature positive world, unless we protect and retain the most highly intact ecosystems on our planet, both on land and in the sea.

## **CATALYZING THE SHIFT TOWARDS AN EQUITABLE, NATURE-POSITIVE AND CARBON-NEUTRAL WORLD**

### ***The pathway towards a nature-positive and carbon-neutral world***

**Nature-positive and carbon-neutral are two sides of the same “coin”** - When it comes to achieving a nature-positive world, we can only succeed if it is carbon-neutral, and vice versa. Therefore we need an integrated approach between global processes, and sectors, bringing together climate change, biodiversity, human rights and development, food systems, public health, and economics, whilst at the same time, translating these processes into spatially-explicit national policies, planning and concrete implementation on the ground.

**We need a whole-of-society approach** - The mobilisation of the whole-of-society is essential for the successful implementation of the GBF. This includes a coordinated whole-of-government approach but also the explicit involvement of other actors from the private sector to civil society at all levels, and accounting of their actions.

**We need an urgent nature-positive economic transition** - This transition requires a large-scale shift to agro-ecology and sustainable food systems, which enhance carbon stocks and maintain the functioning and resilience of ecosystems. The transition also requires integrating biodiversity and climate into the financing, construction, and operation of infrastructure. We must also transform financial flows to reverse, rather than accelerate, nature loss through initiatives such as the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures.

**Joined up implementation approaches are key** – Beyond mainstreaming nature and climate into economic systems, we must also improve joint implementation mechanisms between the CBD, UNFCCC, other MEAs, the SDGs and wider UN system. Joined-up approaches are critical in the coming years to ensure that as the world enters a new phase of economic development and post-pandemic recovery, equity, nature-positive and carbon-neutral goals will lie at the core of these efforts.

### ***The pathway towards an equitable world***

**Intergenerational and gender equity are critically important** - An equitable world is one that ensures inclusive societies for all individuals, but also one that is concerned about future as well as current generations, as well as the human rights of present generations, youth and elders. Therefore the principles of intergenerational equity and gender equity should be embedded throughout the Global Biodiversity Framework.

**The rights and responsibilities of IPLCs must be embedded throughout the GBF** - While human rights are inherent to all human beings, the GBF must ensure the recognition and protection of the rights and responsibilities of IPLCs, recognising that they are effective custodians of nature. IPLCs must be included at all levels of decision making and implementation, and the GBF must recognize and enforce their rights to resources, leadership and governance of their lands, territories, and waters. This must also include ensuring the protection of environmental defenders (many of whom are Indigenous Peoples) by incorporating relevant safeguards into the GBF. It is especially critical that direct and sufficient funding is provided to IPLCs and local organisations who are on the frontline of efforts to stem biodiversity loss.

**An equitable world is one that prioritises the human right to a healthy environment.** The GBF should integrate human rights at the heart of conservation efforts in all spheres and at all levels. We need to go beyond a rights-based approach to a human rights-based approach, which includes recognising the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment for everyone.

### **OUR CALL TO CBD COP-15**

The GBF must set the mission of a nature-positive world by 2030 by halting and reversing nature loss. This means living within the planetary boundaries, protecting our global commons, reconnecting our economy to nature by concretely valuing nature in all spheres of political and economic decision-making, and recognising and respecting human rights of all people.

The 130 world-renowned experts who spoke at the Post-2020 Partnership Pavilion identified concrete steps that are critical for transformative change imperative. We urge government representatives attending the High-Level Segment at the first part of CBD COP-15 to endorse these steps as they renew political momentum for the Global Biodiversity Framework negotiations.

We must all work together to ensure that the high level of political ambition that has been articulated by political leaders at the recent UN General Assembly is reflected in a Global Biodiversity Framework that will truly succeed in creating an equitable, nature-positive and carbon-neutral future for all.

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*For more information on the Post-2020 Partnership please see: [www.post2020partnership.com](http://www.post2020partnership.com)*