

United for Biodiversity – setting global and national targets

In December 2022, the world came together at the 15th United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP-15), to commit to a new Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including a suite of goals and targets (Annex 1) to address the global loss of biodiversity. Target 3, which calls for increasing the area and effectiveness of protected and conserved area networks is at the heart of these commitments. Countries also committed to creating a domestic strategy and action plan aligned with the GBF to guide and bolster action at home.

Why the Goals and Targets are Important

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is a legally-binding, international treaty focused on the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources. The CBD recognizes that biodiversity is fundamental to human health, well-being and economic prosperity and that the loss of biodiversity is a common concern for all humankind. However,

Target 3 – Kunming Montreal Biodiversity Framework

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas...are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable...while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.

[Target 3 \(cbd.int\)](https://www.cbd.int/target3)

The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework includes:

- 23 action-oriented targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030.
- 4 goals to ensure we live in harmony with nature by 2050.
- A new monitoring framework to track progress and enhance financing commitments to support implementation.

the components of biodiversity needing protection to halt and reverse biodiversity loss – and mitigate the consequences of biodiversity loss on human economies, health as well as food and freshwater security – are diverse, interlinked and complex.

The GBF aims to “catalyze, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action...to halt and reverse biodiversity loss”. It is a ‘framework for all’ whose success relies on participation from all levels of government and all of society. The results-oriented framework includes a global monitoring framework which allows for consistent, standardized, and scalable tracking of progress against the global goals and targets. By closely tracking progress, countries will be better able to prioritize investments and actions and identify areas for improvement early in the process, allowing time to implement corrective measures.

The GBF is built on a theory of change, noting that urgent policy action is needed by governments at all levels to achieve sustainable development and ensure that the drivers of undesirable changes that have exacerbated biodiversity loss can be reduced or reversed. Together, the ambitious goals and targets agreed to in the GBF create a shared vision, common direction and enable action for biodiversity across the globe. By committing to, monitoring and reporting on progress,

countries will be held to account by the COP and its 196 signatory countries, and by civil society both internationally and within their own borders.

Biodiversity Loss – A Global Risk

The GBF states that ‘the biosphere, upon which humanity as a whole depends, is being altered to an unparalleled degree across all spatial scales’, and is ‘declining faster than at any time in human history’.

In the World Economic Forum’s 2024 Global Risk Perceptions Survey, 50% of the top global risks over the next decade were environmental, with biodiversity loss ranked as 3rd most severe. ⁱ

[i-Global Risks Report 2024 \(weforum.org\)](https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2024)

Canada’s National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan

As a Party to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Canada is obliged to have a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan that reflects how Canada will implement the measures set out in the GBF. Created in collaboration with Federal, Provincial, Territorial and Indigenous representatives, and with input from partners and stakeholders, [Canada’s 2030 Biodiversity Strategy](#), expected in the fall of 2024, will outline how the global goals and targets apply in Canada and how we will collectively work to achieve them.

Canada’s work to support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework builds on our previous efforts. These include:

- The [2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada](#), released in 2015 in response to the [global Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#). This included 19 commitments to achieve by 2020, including protecting 17% of terrestrial areas and inland water, and 10% of

coastal and marine areas, ensuring species at risk exhibit trends consistent with recovery and management plans, and a number of other priorities.

- Canada’s historic investments in Canada’s Nature Legacy, including \$1.35 billion in 2018, and \$2.3 billion in 2021.
- Supporting the recommendation of the Indigenous Circle of Experts in 2018 around the creation of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas which are lands and waters where Indigenous governments have the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.
- The Canadian Government’s commitments in 2019 and 2021 to conserve 25% of land and marine area by 2025 and 30% by 2030. Canada is working to achieve a full recovery for nature by 2050 while ensuring that this work remains grounded in science, Indigenous knowledge and local perspectives.
- Ongoing work by provinces and territories (Annex 2), which have jurisdiction over most lands in Canada. To date, British Columbia, Yukon and Manitoba have made commitments that align with Canada’s 30 x 30 target, and may be joined by other Provinces and Territories as

A Brief History...

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was opened for signature in 1992 and entered into force in 1993. Canada, with support from provincial and territorial governments*, ratified the Convention on December 29, 1993.

In 2010, all 196 Parties to the Convention, including Canada, agreed the [Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#) - a suite of 4 goals and 20 targets that set a path to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity between 2010 and 2020.

* [Canadian Biodiversity Strategy — biodivcanada.ca](https://www.biodivcanada.ca)

this work continues. Quebec, which develops its own instruments to implement the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, will also contribute to the pan-Canadian effort by achieving an identical target for the creation of protected and conserved areas on its territory and inland waters.

- Many projects led by a variety of partners and stakeholders are currently underway across the country and will contribute to achieving the GBF commitments. These include efforts by non-government organizations, local governments, agricultural sectors, private businesses, natural resource industries, private land owners, the federal government, as well as a number of projects spearheaded by provinces and territories.

Over 80% of all lands in Canada are provincial and territorial Crown lands, with many located on Indigenous traditional territories where Indigenous peoples have rights, interests, and co-governance arrangements. Local governments and private landowners also have an important role to play as at-risk biodiversity is greatest along our southern border where human populations are dense and protected and conserved areas located near or within municipalities contribute significantly to the health and quality of life of many Canadians. For Canada to make an impact on the global biodiversity crisis and meet the internationally agreed upon commitments of the GBF, a partnership-based approach is essential.

Since 2018, over 4 billion dollars has been invested in Canada's biodiversity efforts by the Federal government. Globally, spending on biodiversity conservation was between \$124 billion and \$143 billion in 2019. Commitments to globally mobilize \$200 billion per year by 2030 were made at COP-15; however, some analysts estimate that a global funding gap of approximately \$700 billion per year still exists¹.

The biodiversity crisis is an ongoing threat to Canada, our Nature, and the people who call this land home. To safeguard the economic, health and spiritual wellbeing of Canadians, continued and expanded partnerships, investments and public awareness building are essential.

To learn more about Canada's biodiversity framework visit <https://www.biodivcanada.ca/>

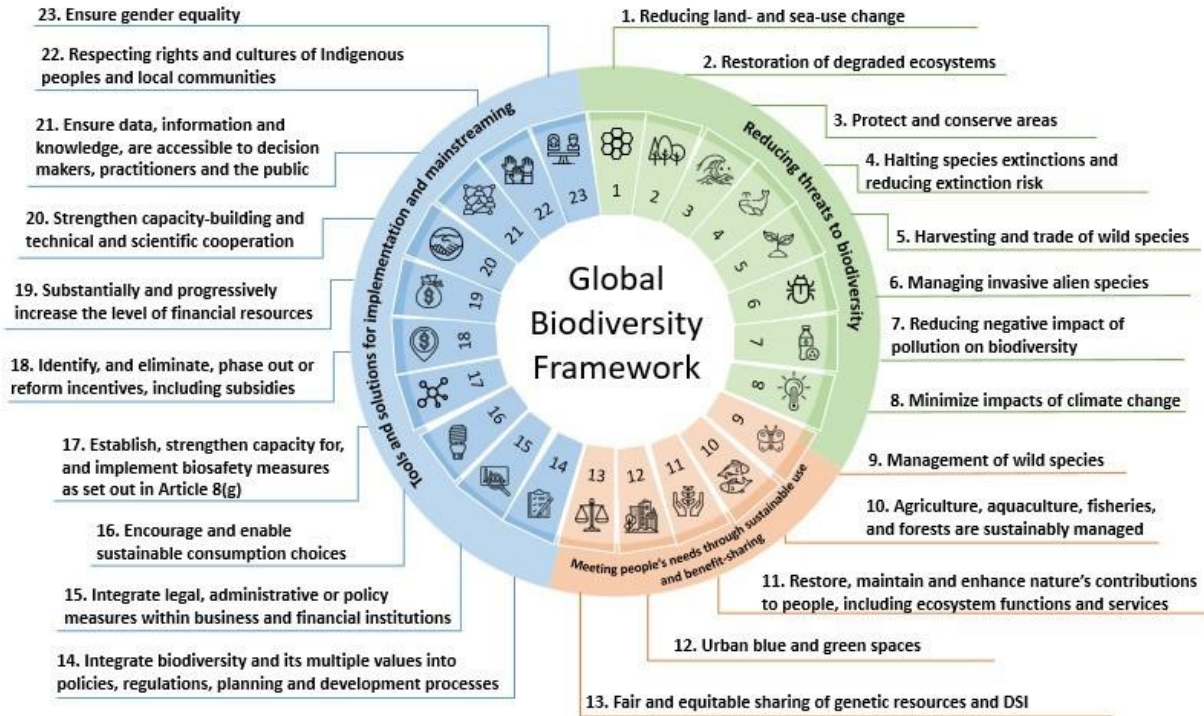
To learn more about international targets visit <https://www.cbd.int/>

To learn more about protected and conserved areas in Canada visit <https://www.CanadaConservation.ca>

¹ [Half of global GDP relies on nature—but it's being wiped out. Here's the business case for investing in biodiversity | Fortune Europe](#)

Annex 1

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework Themes and Targets



² [Toward a 2030 Biodiversity Strategy for Canada: Halting and reversing nature loss - Canada.ca](#)

Annex 2

Terrestrial protected and conserved areas in Canada, December 2022³

	Percentage of Total Area*	Reported as Protected Areas	Reported as OECMs**
Alberta	15.4%	15.4%	0.0%
British Columbia	19.6%	15.5%	4.1%
Manitoba	11.0%	11.0%	0.03%
New Brunswick	9.9%	9.8%	0.1%
Newfoundland and Labrador	6.9%	6.9%	0.0%
Northwest Territories	15.8%	12.9%	2.9%
Nova Scotia	13.2%	13.0%	0.2%
Nunavut	10.2%	10.2%	0.0%
Ontario	10.9%	10.9%	0.0%
Prince Edward Island	4.8%	4.1%	0.7%
Quebec	16.8%	16.8%	0.0%
Saskatchewan	9.8%	7.8%	2.0%
Yukon	19.3%	19.3%	0.0%
Canada	13.6%	12.7%	0.9%

*Total area of province, territory or country, as indicated

**OECM = Other Effective Area Based Conservation Measures

³ [Canadian Protected and Conserved Areas Database - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/nature-conservation/services/protected-conserved-areas-database)