

Future Earth High-Level Statement

Thank you Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen.

The biodiversity and climate crises are being driven by the same anthropogenic drivers. Solutions are within reach if we tackle both in tandem, working towards a just and equitable world. Last month's climate COP27 created momentum, with climate decisions mentioning biodiversity, and with a breakthrough finance mechanism for loss and damage. Ambitious goals for biodiversity can only be achieved through urgent transformative action that encompasses solutions across the social, economic and political spectrum.

Our organization, Future Earth, convenes researchers across the globe, from a range of disciplines, to co-produce knowledge with a diversity of stakeholders. We are uniquely placed to support the Convention on Biological Diversity and parties, in implementing a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, by providing the necessary research that brings about transformation. Let us name some examples:

- The Science Briefs, developed by bioDISCOVERY in collaboration with GEO BON, have provided parties with an updated assessment and recommendations for selected targets on how to achieve the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.
- The Global Mountain Biodiversity Assessment's Mountain Portal provides accessible, up-to-date information on the state of biodiversity in the mountain regions of our planet.
- 10 Facts on Land, developed by the Global Land Programme, explain the challenges of achieving sustainability in land use as a guide for policymakers, and practitioners.
- In our Canada Hub we are working to elevate Indigenous knowledge systems around nature stewardship.
- Lastly, the Earth Commission assesses the latest science to define safe and just Earth system boundaries for people and planet, supporting the development of science-based targets for earth systems such as land, water, biodiversity and others.

An Earth Commission scientific study, on achieving a nature positive and people positive future, published in the journal One Earth as the COP started, re-emphasized what many have been stating throughout the last 3 years. Based on the paper, with partners we initiated a global online call for signatories, that as of 9:30pm in Montreal, on 16th December, now, has almost 3300 signatories from researchers and scientists from over 125 countries. The number increases every hour, which we will report daily as the COP approaches its final hours.

The science is clear. We reiterate the global call for governments to act immediately to halt and reverse biodiversity loss. This will require real ambition in the agreed 2030 targets, in three critical areas:

- To halt and begin to reverse loss of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity, and invest in measures that effectively put them on paths to recovery;
- To reduce direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss to sustainable levels across all major production and consumption sectors;

- Achieving this will require wealthy countries and sectors of society to rapidly reduce their shares and impacts of consumption to achieve a more equitable distribution.

Without all three of these actions, we cannot halt and reverse biodiversity loss. Future Earth commits to continue its long-standing collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity, providing interdisciplinary research in support of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We support a Framework that describes clear, measurable, and ambitious goals, to catalyze corresponding action from all sectors of society, across all targets.