

COP15: Day 4

11 December 2022

These updates will be sent out daily throughout COP15. Many thanks to all our partners who have helped provide us with relevant information.

[Summary](#) | [Negotiations](#) | [What is happening in Canada, in Quebec, and in Montreal?](#) | [Important announcements](#) | [Civil society & mobilization](#) | [Happening today](#)

Summary

- A crowd of 3,500 people braved the cold December weather last Saturday to put pressure on states negotiating the next Global Biodiversity Framework. The message was clear: we must tackle the biodiversity crisis and guarantee fundamental rights, especially those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who protect the planet's ecosystems. COP15 must not fail.
- We are halfway through COP15. On Saturday 10 December, a plenary session was held to take stock of the progress made so far, after a week of negotiations. During this plenary a series of decisions from the different protocols of the Convention, such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing, were adopted.
- With the arrival of Ministers on 14 December, negotiators have no choice but to accelerate the speed of negotiations in order to present advanced and clear texts to Ministers. In the second week, countries are expected to discuss the most important political elements, including: the adoption of the global framework, the adoption of decisions on financing and international solidarity, a decision on digital sequence information and a decision on transparency and accountability of States at the domestic level.

Negotiations

- At the plenary on 10 December, COP 15 President Huang Runqiu acknowledged that the current speed of negotiations is insufficient to adopt the Global Biodiversity Framework in time. He called on negotiators to show courage, political will and flexibility to adopt an ambitious Framework.
- Several actors such as the International Union for Conservation of Nature, BirdLife International and the World Wildlife Fund made statements, all emphasising urgency and the importance that this COP deliver results.
- The Global Framework contact group completed some sections, notably: Bbis (on the principles of the Global Framework), C (the relationship with the Sustainable Development Goals), D (theory of change) and E (vision for 2050). Many square

brackets have been removed, but several paragraphs remained in square brackets and had to be taken back up.

- The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity issued a [statement](#) highlighting the importance of ensuring a rights-based approach in the implementation of BMF Goal 3, and the inclusion of "Indigenous Peoples' territories and customary lands and waters."

Important announcements

- On December 10, Ian Lafrennière, Quebec's Minister responsible for Indigenous Affairs, [announced \\$23 million](#) in financial support over four years for biodiversity conservation initiatives in Indigenous communities in Quebec. This amount falls under the umbrella of the Nature Plan announced by Premier François Legault earlier this week.
- The Montreal Metropolitan Community (MMC; representing 82 municipalities in the greater Montreal area) [has committed](#) to protecting 30% of its territory by 2030. To achieve this goal, it will:
 1. integrate the objective of protecting 30% of the territory into the Metropolitan Planning and Development Plan;
 2. create a network of metropolitan parks (including the acquisition and conversion of former golf courses)
 3. improve the green and blue belt programme;
 4. implement a reforestation programme; and
 5. inventory municipal initiatives. In this context, the city of Laval has announced the protection of 25 hectares of the Saint-François forest, while the city of Saint-Bruno-de-Montarville has committed to protecting 19 hectares of the Sabourin woodland, which also includes wetlands and the habitat of a species at risk, the western chorus frog.

What is happening in Canada, in Quebec, and in Montreal?

- To date, there has been [no announcement](#) regarding the protection of Quebec's caribou, particularly the forest (e.g. Pipmuacan, Charlevoix and Val-d'Or populations) and montane ecotypes of the Gaspé Peninsula, even though the situation of several of these populations is extremely critical.

Civil society & mobilization

- On 10 December, the March for Biodiversity and Human Rights took place, bringing together [3,500 people](#), around 100 civil society organizations and several Indigenous delegations from all over the world, some of whom were invited to speak at the end of the march. The violence of Canadian mines on the ancestral territories of Indigenous Peoples in the Amazon was denounced. Speakers at the march included:
 1. Katsi'tsakwas Ellen Gabriel, kanien'kehá:ka land defender from Kanehsatà:ke

2. Sanda Anjara Rakotomalala, Madagascar land defender and member of the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN)
3. Anne Céline Guyon, project manager and climate expert with Nature Québec, member of the Quebec civil society Collectif COP15
4. Ta’Kaiya Blaney, Tla A'min land defender
5. Lucien Wabanonik, member of the Council of the Nation Anishnabe of Lac Simon
6. Puyr Tembé, President of the Indigenous Peoples of Pará Federation (Brazil)
7. Mariann Bassey, food sovereignty program coordinator, Friends of the Earth Nigeria and Africa

Happening today

Monday 12 December

1. Bonn Challenge Announcement, with Ministers Guilbeault et Wilkinson
Time: 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.
Place: Canada Pavilion, Palais des congrès de Montréal
2. Weaving Indigenous Knowledge announcement with Minister Wilkinson
Time: 2:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Place: Canada Pavilion, Palais des congrès de Montréal
3. Youth Participation in Natural Resources announcement with Minister Wilkinson
Time: 4:15 p.m. Heure : De 14 h à 14 h 30
Place: Canada Pavilion, Palais des congrès de Montréal
4. Day 2 of [Nature & Culture Summit](#) (for registered attendees)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception
Place: Palais des congrès de Montréal
5. Day 2 of [7th Summit for Subnational Governments & Cities](#) (for registered attendees)
Time: 9:00 a.m. - 7:30 p.m., followed by a reception
Place: Palais des congrès de Montréal
6. Multiple panels and conferences throughout the day in the [public action zone of Réseau Environnement](#)
Time: 8:45 a.m. - 6:30 p.m., followed by a reception
Place: Grand Quay of the Port of Montreal
7. [Carnaval de la biodiversité](#)
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Place: Centre St-Jax