

COP15: Day 5

12 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.

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Summary

- This Monday, December 12, we are entering the second week of the COP15. It is the beginning of the so-called "political" week with the arrival of the ministers from December 14 and the organization of the high-level summit that will take place on December 17.
- On Monday, Canada made multiple announcements, notably:
 - An alliance for sustainable critical minerals that so far includes Canada, Germany, Australia, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.
 - This announcement can also be seen as an extension of the government's new China policy, to help create a common Western front against China to reduce the dependence of value chains on Chinese minerals.
- Some developing countries, including Brazil and 69 other states, have announced their intention to make international financing for biodiversity a condition for the adoption of the Global Framework by the end of COP15.
- Brazil, on behalf of this group, expressed concern about the slow progress of negotiations for financing and resource mobilization. They pointed out that there have still been no negotiations on the target that addresses financing within the Global Framework - [19.1 \(financing\)](#).
- Clearly, developing countries want to make international finance for biodiversity the key issue of this second week, stressing that it is not possible to implement ambitious plans for the protection, conservation and restoration of biodiversity without justice and international solidarity.
- Developing countries are calling for the creation of a Biodiversity Fund. They want a decision that addresses the funding gap, and a clear resource mobilization plan between COP15 and COP16.

Negotiations

- Although the negotiators were scheduled to be off on Monday, given the magnitude of the task at hand, China requested that the negotiations continue. As a result, countries met to continue important negotiations on the global framework, digital sequence information, resource mobilization, and capacity building and technical and scientific cooperation.
- We know that four topics are among the most political issues that will need to be considered if a global consensus is to be built by the end of COP15 to adopt the global framework: the ambition of the global framework, financing, digital sequencing of genetic resources and accountability.
- Negotiations on [resource mobilization](#) were very heated.
- The co-facilitators presented a draft decision with different options A, B, C - 19.1 (funding).
- Obviously, this global framework cannot be implemented without financial resources. Negotiators must therefore work to ensure that the plan for resource mobilization is robust and guides countries towards greater mobilization of adequate resources by 2030 and 2050. Countries with opposing views have not yet been forthcoming. These include Japan and Australia, but also the countries of the European Union. On the side of developing countries, we know that financing is a concern. But, we have heard countries like Namibia also talk about the devastating legacy of colonialism as a driver of biodiversity loss and that their expenditure amounts to over 2 billion dollars.
- The estimated amount of funding for the global framework is around \$700 billion to start with, with \$200 billion coming from member states' resources, both public and international. Another \$500 billion is needed from the transition from subsidies now going to harmful projects.
- The amount suggested for Canada's fair contribution is \$1 billion. This is also what the Climate Action Network has been asking for since the beginning of the year.

What's happening in Canada, in Quebec, and in Montreal?

- Speaking at the Environment Network's Public Action Zone this morning, Quebec's Minister Charette emphasized the importance of municipalities in the implementation of the global framework and reiterated various funding to protect biodiversity: \$650 million for the Nature Plan (announced last week), \$650 million for the Blue Fund (which was announced several months ago), as well as separate funding for the upcoming Caribou Strategy.
 - No deadline or amount has been specified for the caribou strategy. Without new announcements, we can assume that it will be unveiled in June 2023, as mentioned by the Quebec government in the fall of 2021.
 - However, the [final report of the Independent Panel on Woodland and Mountain Caribou](#) recommended that actions be taken well in advance of this date, such as

moratoria to protect large tracts of mature forest or the creation of protected areas. COP15 would be an appropriate time for such announcements.

- The Quebec government has committed to strengthening measures to protect wildlife in precarious situations on its territory (it is notably open to a revision of the Act respecting threatened or vulnerable species). In his [December 12 interview with Le Devoir](#), Minister Charette stated that encroachment into the habitats of these species would still be possible for certain development projects, e.g. when compensation or restoration of these habitats is possible. However, the project must be of real relevance to the government, such as a public utility building, a seniors' home, a hospital or, in some cases, public transportation.

Important announcements

Canada

- On December 12, Minister Wilkinson announced the [creation of the Sustainable Critical Minerals Alliance](#). The Alliance currently includes Canada, Australia, France, Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, but other countries are invited to join. The goal of the Alliance is "to promote, on a global scale, the adoption of sustainable and socially inclusive and responsible mining, processing and recycling practices, as well as the use of responsible critical minerals supply chains."
- Alliance member countries commit to efforts "toward developing sustainable and inclusive mining practices and sourcing critical minerals that:"
 - Adopt a nature-positive approach;
 - Support local and Indigenous communities;
 - Help fight climate change;
 - Restore ecosystems;
 - Build a circular economy;
 - Foster ethical corporate practices.
- On 12 December, Ministers Wilkinson and Guilbeault announced Canada's commitment to [the Bonn Challenge](#), "a global programme to restore 350 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes by 2030". In this context, the Government of Canada's first pledge is to restore 19 million hectares through various existing federal programs, including the 2 Billion Tree Program.
- In 2023, a sixth UN office will be established in Montreal, [UN Habitat](#). More specifically, the office will focus on cities and habitats most vulnerable to climate change. To help establish the office, Minister Pascale St-Onge announced \$23 million in funding on December 12.
- Minister Wilkinson announced the [launch of Natural Resources Canada's first Youth Council](#), in recognition of the importance of consulting and listening to youth on climate and natural resource issues. The 12 young people who make up the Council will have a one-year mandate, during which they will "study and share its perspectives on the

country's most pressing climate and natural resource issues, including policies related to:"

- decarbonizing transportation, including through zero-emission vehicles;
- restoring nature, including through tree planting;
- energy efficiency, including green buildings;
- just transition with sustainable jobs; and
- Indigenous partnerships and economic reconciliation.

Montreal (and other cities in Quebec)

- Montreal Mayor Valérie Plante has announced that [Mount Royal Park will be enlarged by three hectares](#), thanks to the transfer to the City of three plots of land behind the former Royal Victoria Hospital. 290 parking spaces near Smith House will also be eliminated and replaced with green space.
- During a panel discussion at the Environment Network's Public Utility Zone this morning, Quebec City Mayor Bruno Marchand announced that he has taken steps to have [Quebec City become a UNESCO biosphere region](#), i.e. a place where solutions are put in place to reconcile the conservation of biodiversity and its sustainable use, taking into account social issues. The Minister of International Relations and Francophonie will support the city in these efforts. The city is also committed to achieving the target of 30% natural environments on its territory by 2030.

Civil society & mobilization

- As Ministers Wilkinson and Guilbeault announced their commitment to restore 19 million hectares of degraded and deforested land, a demonstration took place just outside the Palais des Congrès to denounce the ransacking of land in the Amazon by a Canadian miner.

Happening today

1. COP-15 COP Presidency press conference
Time: 9:00
Place: Kuujuaq - 220D
2. Armchair Discussion with Dr. Mona Nemer
Time: 10:00 to 10:30 am
Location: Canada Pavilion, Palais des congrès de Montréal
3. [Multiple panels and conferences](#) throughout the day in the Public Action Zone of the Réseau Environnement
Time: 8:00 a.m. to 7:45 p.m.
Location: Grand quai du port de Montréal

4. [Adding natural capital on the balance sheet: How public and private organizations can protect biodiversity](#) (side event)
Time: 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.
Place: Maison du développement durable
5. [Parlons pollution, parlons solutions](#) (panel)
Time: 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.
Place: Maison du développement durable
6. High level briefing on the Pacific Island Leaders call for a UN Resolution seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on Human Rights, Environmental Protection and Climate Change
Time: 6:15 p.m.
Place: Side-event 2 - 512F
7. [We are all nature: an intergenerational conversation with David Suzuki, Severn Cullis-Suzuki and friends \(online\)](#)
Time: 6:30 p.m.
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaVpAz_CGxA