

# **IMPLEMENTING THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK IN CANADA**

**Presentation to RCEN Biodiversity  
Caucus, December 5, 2023**

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# Overview

- Biodiversity Conservation in Canada since 1992
- Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)
- Progress Implementing GBF in Canada
- *A Nature and Biodiversity Act*
- Advocating for Biodiversity Conservation: Caucus Roles



# Biodiversity Conservation in Canada since 1992

- One million species face extinction globally (2019 ISPPBES Report), 1200 species at risk under SARA)
- Canada hasn't met international commitments (1992 Biodiversity Convention, 2010 Aichi Targets)
- Canada failed to provide national leadership or effectively coordinate actions required to meet Aichi Targets – CESD 2018
- Important federal leadership since 2015 on protected areas, Indigenous-led conservation, budgets, COP15
- Halt/Reverse not priority for provinces
- THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW!



# Kunming – Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)

- COP15 held in Montreal December 2022
- China president of COP15, Canada geographic host
- Signed Dec. 19 by 188 countries, sets 4 binding goals/23 targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030
- Requires National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) submitted every second year before COPs



# GBF Goals

- Integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems maintained, enhanced; Human induced extinction of known threatened species halted; Genetic diversity maintained
- Biodiversity sustainably used and managed
- Fair sharing of monetary/non-monetary benefits from use of genetic resources and traditional knowledge
- Adequate means of implementation.  
(e.g., financial)



# GBF Targets by 2030

- Ensure effective restoration of 30% of areas of degraded ecosystems (2)
- Protect 30% of terrestrial/marine areas, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, respecting Indigenous rights (3)
- Halt human-induced extinction of threatened species (4)
- Ensure sustainable use of species respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples (5)
- Eliminate, minimize, reduce and/or mitigate impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity (6)
- Reduce pollution risks to levels not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services (7)
- Minimize impact of climate change/ocean acidification on biodiversity (8)
- Ensure representation/participation in decision-making by Indigenous peoples (23)



# Progress Implementing GBF in Canada (Federal)

- Minister Guilbeault commits to nature accountability act by early 2024 (Dec. 2022, May 2023)
- ECCC-led National Biodiversity Symposium launches public process for 2030 NBSAP (May 2023)
- Nature groups issue recommendations for NBSAP (July 2023)
- PMO clears path for ECCC submission to Cabinet for GBF implementation in Canada (Oct. 2023)
- Milestone document on National Biodiversity Strategy (NBSAP) with 60 days for comment (Dec. 2023?) ●



# Progress Implementing GBF in Canada (Ecojustice/ Greenpeace)

- Nature Canada/WCEL workshop on implementing draft GBF (April 2021)
- Geselbracht/Hazell article in Narwhal advocating federal biodiversity accountability statute (Oct 2021)
- Greenpeace/Ecojustice launch public campaign for Nature and Biodiversity Act (spring 2022)
- Greenpeace issues report advocating *Nature and Biodiversity Act* with recommendations drafted by Ecojustice/Ecovision (June 2022)
- Parliamentary petition sponsored by Richard Cannings open for signature (Nov. 2023)





# ***Nature and Biodiversity Act:*** **Ecojustice/Greenpeace Proposal**

- Legislated accountability framework to measure Canada's progress halt/reverse biodiversity loss
- Parallels *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* for biodiversity
- Establish an integrated national approach with coordinated action across Canada
- Encourages/supports contributions to targets by provinces/territories/Indigenous governments
- Recognizes/affirms Indigenous rights/jurisdiction
- Indigenous authority/ resources to directly inform statutory language



# ***Nature and Biodiversity Act:***

## **Elements**

- Enshrine GBF goals and targets in law (noting that quantitative targets are easier to measure)
- Require NBSAPs and progress reports with legislated criteria
- Require corrective action when targets missed
- Establish accountability links to other federal laws (SARA, IAA)
- Establish independent advisory panel of scientific experts/Indigenous knowledge holders
- Provide for audit by Environment Commissioner



# Advocating for Biodiversity Conservation: Caucus Roles

- Comment on the milestone document when it is released
- Raise need for legislation and strong national biodiversity strategy with federal and provincial politicians
- Participate in local demos
- Come to Ottawa in March 2024 for Nature on the Hill



# Sign/Start a Parliamentary Petition!

- Sign e-petition e-4673 calling on Prime Minister to introduce nature and biodiversity law in Parliament in early 2024
- <https://www.ourcommons.ca/petitions/en/Petition/Details?Petition=e-4673>
- Initiated by Ecojustice, Greenpeace, West Coast Environmental Law
- Sponsored by Richard Cannings MP
- Start paper petitions with local MP
- Start petitions with provincial MLAs



# For more information

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