

# POSITION PAPER

**COUNTRY** : CANADA

**COMMITTEE** : UNITED NATIONS  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

**AGENDA** : CONVENTION ON  
BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY & ITS  
CONTRIBUTION TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



The convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), known informally as the Biodiversity Convention, is a multilateral treaty. The convention has 3 main goals, they are:

- The conservation of biological diversity (or biodiversity)
- The sustainable use of its components.
- The fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from genetic resources.

Its objective is to develop national strategies for the conservation and suitable use of biological diversity, and it is often seen as the key document regarding sustainable development. The CBD is the diversity of nature is a global asset of tremendous value to prevent and share future generations. It aims to conserve nature, ensure nature is used sustainably and that the benefits to people from the use of genetic diversity.

Canada is home to significant wild spaces and iconic wildlife, millions of migratory birds breeding in the Arctic and elsewhere in Canada. Canadians place high value in Canada's natural spaces. For this reason, Canada was the first industrialized country to ratify the Convention in 1992 and we are the proud host of the CBD Secretariat, located in Montreal and has been for 23 years now. Canada provides the National Focal Point for the CBD, who represents the government in its routine dealings with the secretariats, including responding to requests, dissemination of information, representation at meeting, and

promoting and facilitating national implementation. Canada is active in all CBD meetings, including inter-sessional meetings and conferences of the parties (COPs). The Canadian Biodiversity Strategy is Canada's NBSAP which was developed in Canada to identify the measures that are required to meet Canada's obligation under the Convention and to enhance coordination of national efforts aimed at the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. The primary responsibility for conserving biodiversity and ensuring its sustainable use is shared among provincial, territorial and federal government. Canada developed a Biodiversity Outcomes Framework in 2006 which provides an action-oriented approach to implementation of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy in 2015 federal/provincial/territorial Ministers adopted the 2020 Biodiversity Goals and Targets for Canada. Canada has protected about 12% of terrestrial areas as of January 2020, and inland waters as of December 2020. They have surpassed their target of protecting 10% of coastal and marine areas. The Nova Scotia Government announced 17 new and expanded PAs with 10 more. They will include 10 wilderness areas, 12 nature reserves, and 5 provincial parks that together total 14,400 hectares, according to CBC News. Canada announced the creation of a new Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area (IPCA) in the Jumbo Valley in British Columbia. Known as Qat'muk, this area is a critical habitat for wildlife and "holds spiritual significance for the Ktunaxa as the home of the Grizzly Bear Spirit."

#### Roadmap to 2030:

- Canada is on track to meet their targets this year. The federal government has played to protect 25% of lands and oceans by 2025 and 30% by 2030.
- Focusing not only on how much land and ocean is conserved, but also on which areas to protect – such as areas of high biodiversity and those that are home to species at risk, and ensuring that sites have comprehensive and long-term protection.
- Increasing funding to match ambition, including committing significant, permanent, funding to support the establishment and long-term management of protected land and ocean areas across the country.

We know that large-scale action is needed to address the threats facing the natural world, including wild spaces, iconic wildlife and all the species in the world. Scientists can explore without harming any species in this world.