

## PRESS RELEASE

### NGO Action Forum convened ahead of UN Biodiversity Conference mobilises hundreds of commitments on biodiversity

- *Two-day NGO Action Forum issues joint call for action and mobilises hundreds of commitments to help advance biodiversity goals and objectives, including post-2020 global biodiversity framework*
- *Call for action and commitments contribute to Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People*
- *Forum featured high-level guests and speakers representing non-State actors based in China and abroad.*

**Montreal, 1 October 2021** – A two-day Non-Governmental Organizations' (NGO) Action Forum with over 400 participants closed on 28 September in Kunming, China, with 50 voluntary commitments from NGOs and other stakeholders in the context of a joint call for action on biodiversity at its high-level closing ceremony in support of the fifteenth meeting of Conference of the Parties (COP-15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

Non-State actors, including eight biodiversity alliances<sup>1</sup> representing dozens of NGOs and private-public organizations, based in China and abroad, publicly announced their individual commitments through the Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, which invites positive action in support of nature in line with the post-2020 global biodiversity framework due to be adopted next year, and signed the joint call for action: *"Towards Kunming: My Commitments for Nature"*.

The joint call for action, embodies the theme of COP-15, "Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth" and commits entities to take concrete actions, including:

- 1/ Increase participation of non-State actors in the development and implementation of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework
- 2/ Support national biodiversity strategies and action plans and implementation of actions at the national level
- 3/ Support strategies for biodiversity mainstreaming, with further engagement of indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth in the process
- 4/ Further promote education and public awareness
- 5/ Invest in biodiversity practices in China and abroad
- 6/ Mobilize non-State actors to catalyse further action in the context of COP-15, the post-2020 framework and the Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People.

Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, CBD Executive Secretary said, *"I applaud all participants who made commitments, for leading by example and contributing to the Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda"*

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<sup>1</sup> The following eight biodiversity alliances: 1. Shan Shui Conservation Centre; 2. Friends of Nature; 3. Paradise Foundation; 4. China Environmental Protection Foundation; 5. Global Environmental Institute; 6. Society of Entrepreneurs and Ecology Foundation; 7. Greenovation Hub; 8. One Planet Foundation.

*for Nature and People, through which their actions can be recognized and showcased in the lead up to and during COP-15. It is in everyone's best interest to take action. We encourage you to support and encourage further action across your networks and beyond, to help advance biodiversity goals and objectives."*

Huang Runqiu, Minister of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China said, "I call on non-state actors to contribute to the success of COP-15 and open a new chapter on biodiversity governance."

Hundreds of participants attended the Forum in person and thousands of viewers tuned in to watch it online. High-level guests and speakers representing non-State actors based in China and abroad participated in five thematic sessions on: nature-based solutions; biodiversity mainstreaming; best practices on biodiversity conservation; individual commitments and the post-2020 framework; and, the role of foundations in biodiversity conservation.

The Forum also hosted a carnival night and a signing ceremony highlighting voluntary non-State actor commitments for biodiversity.

Recordings of the Forum can be viewed in [Chinese](#) and in [English](#).

The Forum was organized by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges with support from the China Environmental Protection Foundation and other civil society partners, under the authority of the Ministry of Ecology and Environment of the People's Republic of China and in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

## **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Visit the web portal of the [Sharm El Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People](#) or contact us at [action.agenda@cbd.int](mailto:action.agenda@cbd.int) to register your action.

Draft one of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework: [www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework](http://www.cbd.int/article/draft-1-global-biodiversity-framework)

## **About the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Opened for signature in 1992 at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, and entering into force in December 1993, the CBD is an international treaty for the conservation of biodiversity, the sustainable use of the components of biodiversity and the equitable sharing of the benefits derived from the use of genetic resources. With 196 Parties, the CBD has near universal participation among countries. The CBD seeks to address all threats to biodiversity and ecosystem services, including threats from climate change, through scientific assessments, the development of tools, incentives and processes, the transfer of technologies and good practices and the full and active involvement of relevant stakeholders including indigenous peoples and local communities, youth, women, NGOs, sub-national actors and the business community. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety and the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing are supplementary agreements to the CBD. The Cartagena Protocol, which entered into force 11 September 2003, seeks to protect biodiversity from the potential risks posed by living modified organisms resulting from modern biotechnology. To date, 173 Parties have ratified the Cartagena Protocol. The Nagoya Protocol aims at sharing the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies. Entering into force 12 October 2014, it has been ratified by 132 Parties.