

How do Land trusts contribute to the goals of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

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Summary

Land trusts across Canada contribute greatly towards the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF). This document is a list of GBF targets and summary of how land trusts contribute towards achieving these targets.

Four Long-Term Goals of the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

(See appendix A for reference)

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework: 23 Targets

The framework has 23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030. The actions set out in each target need to be initiated immediately and completed by 2030. Together, the results will enable achievement towards the outcome-oriented goals for 2050. Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations, considering national circumstances, priorities, and socioeconomic conditions.

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity

TARGET 1

Ensure that all areas are under participatory integrated biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land and sea use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities

- Land trusts acquire land and/or conservation easements to protect important habitats and restore degraded ecosystems, especially ecosystems with high ecological integrity.
- Land trusts have a great potential to enhance conservation through OECMs.
- Land trusts work to ensure that the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities are respected.
- Land trusts work with federal, provincial, and municipal governments to provide spatial planning recommendations and conservation tools.
- Land trusts use climate change resilience as a key indicator in their conservation planning and land acquisition strategies.
- Land Trusts work to strategically acquire properties that build conservation corridors for the benefit of wildlife, people, and land-use planning objectives.
- Some land trusts are Indigenous-led, while others are working in partnership with Indigenous communities to meet conservation goals, develop stewardship agreements, and return the land back to its rightful owners through transfer agreements.

TARGET 2

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and coastal and marine ecosystems are under effective restoration, to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity, and connectivity.

- Through Land Acquisition, land trusts safeguard important habitats and natural resources, thereby protecting biodiversity and ensuring the sustainable use of natural resources.
- Through stewardship, land trusts manage lands in ways that support biodiversity, such as: planting and monitoring native species, population counts, improving/monitoring species at risk habitat, and the removal of invasive species to ensure that ecosystems can remain functional for the long-term.

TARGET 3

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities including over their traditional territories.

- Land trusts protect, restore, and monitor wetlands and shorelines, while contributing directly to the protection of freshwater ecosystems.
- Land trusts participate in policy development, implementation, and consultation by communicating the importance of freshwater systems with decision-makers. Land Trusts inform decision making to benefit the sensitive habitats and ensure ecological values are integrated into legislation.
- Land trusts conserve private lands in coastal areas and can influence the protection of intertidal zones that are under provincial jurisdiction.
- Land trusts collaborate with local communities, indigenous people, and government agencies to develop and implement marine ecosystem management plans or policies that incorporate biodiversity conservation and sustainable management practices.
- Land trusts engage the public and industry in addressing the pollution of both marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

TARGET 4

Ensure urgent management actions, to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

- Land trusts prioritize the conservation of endangered or threatened species by protecting their habitats and creating habitat corridors to connect fragmented areas.

- Land Trusts provide education and awareness initiatives to local communities and visitors to increase understanding of the importance of wildlife conservation.
- Land Trusts participate in the implementation of species at risk management plans, including the protection of species that are subject to poaching and illegal trafficking.
- Land Trusts protect Important Migratory Birds Areas for the benefit of species that cross international borders.
- Land Trusts perform catch monitoring and observation-based programs to monitor species compositions and distributions.

TARGET 5

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe, and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spill-over, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Land Trusts work to protect Canada's most at risk species by preserving their active and potential/future habitat.
- Land Trusts work to educate the public and private landowners on the importance of safeguarding species at risk population data to reduce risks of illegal trade and poaching.
- Land Trusts educate private landowners on best management practices to balance industry and commercial needs with the needs of wildlife and critical habitat.
- Land Trusts work with industry to educate on the importance of habitat conservation and stewardship of natural resources.

TARGET 6

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 percent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands .

- Land trusts detect, control, or eradicate invasive species.
- Land trusts take preventive measures to avoid the introduction and spread of invasive species by closely monitoring species populations on trust-owned properties, establishing buffer zones around their properties, and promoting the use of native plants in their restoration projects.
- Land trusts work with other organizations such as invasive species councils, and government agencies to develop regional invasive species management plans and coordinate efforts to manage invasives across landscapes.
- Land Trust works with private landowners to share resources and best practices when it comes to invasive species management and control.
- Land Trusts work with the public to educate people on the impact of invasive species and how to report species when they are found on preserves and private lands.

TARGET 7

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources, by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and also preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

- Land Trusts advocate for pollution policy changes and control methods to benefit the needs of wildlife and critical habitats.
- Land Trusts develop location-based protocols and procedures, when located near polluted/toxic areas, to advocate for the proper remediation and restoration of degraded areas.
- Land Trusts call for changes if proposed industrial/developmental changes could harm protected/critical areas. Land Trusts offer their expertise on environmental impact and environmental monitoring to determine the best approach for reducing and preventing pollution.

TARGET 8

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

- Land trusts acquire and protect natural habitats such as forests, wetlands, and grasslands, which act as important carbon sinks and help stabilize ecosystems against the impacts of climate change.
- Land trusts promote climate-smart solutions by advocating for and promoting sustainable land management practices that are resilient to climate change, such as regenerative agriculture, agroforestry, and sustainable grazing.
- Land trusts protect and conserve biodiverse ecosystems, which tend to have higher resilience to climate change impacts.
- Land trusts engage in projects that help ecosystems adapt to climate change, such as restoring wetlands and improving soil health.

2. Meeting people's needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing

TARGET 9

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic, and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Through advocacy, land trusts can engage in efforts to protect biodiversity by supporting policies and regulations that promote sustainable land use practices and collaborating with other organizations to preserve important habitats.
- Through education and outreach, land trusts provide information and education about the importance of biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use practices to their members, supporters, volunteers, and the public.
- Land trusts partner with other organizations and stakeholders to enhance their conservation efforts, such as partnering with local governments and conservation groups to develop landscape-level conservation plans and coordinate conservation activities.
- Land Trusts provide recreational opportunities for communities by maintaining and restoring trails for public use.

TARGET 10

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity-friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

- Some land trusts protect, restore, and promote the regeneration of agricultural and forestry lands.
 - For Example, the Ontario Farmland Trust protects and preserves farmlands and associated agricultural, natural, and cultural features.
- With recent commitments to the Bonn Challenge, the Government of Canada can work and collaborate with Land Trusts to ensure the 350-million-hectare goal is met and Canada effectively contributes to the challenge.

TARGET 11

Restore, maintain, and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination, and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

- Land Trusts work to protect wetlands and buffer zones which are critical tools in combatting the threats of natural disasters.
- Land Trusts adopt and practice nature-based solutions through the permanent protection of sensitive areas and using natural infrastructure for restoration practices and purposes.

TARGET 12

Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

- Land trusts develop and implement conservation, acquisitions, and stewardship plans.
- Land trusts work with governments, NGOs, and other stakeholders to strengthen the implementation of conservation policies, initiatives, projects, and programs.
- Land trusts are strong partners with municipalities and other local and regional stakeholders.
 - For example, conservation groups like the Eco-Corridor Laurentiens support municipalities with the tools and resources to develop conservation corridors and provide expertise on planning and strategies.

TARGET 13 – Does Not Apply

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

TARGET 14

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework. Engaging stakeholders and the public in decision-making processes related to land use and management.

- Land Trusts promote education and awareness-raising efforts/campaigns to build community and industry support for biodiversity conservation.
- To scale-up, Land Trusts collaborate with other organizations and agencies to create larger-scale conservation initiatives that aim to protect critical habitats and biodiversity hotspots.
- Land Trusts consistently and continuously develop and update policies and practices to reflect the latest scientific findings and changing conditions.
- Land trusts are skilled at leveraging funding from foundations, individual donors, and land donors to meet organization goals and mandates.

- To ensure that Land Trusts can achieve their goals in perpetuity (at least 1000 years), a Canada Wide Endowment Fund is critical to support and sustain growth, capacity building, success, and innovation.
- With 30% of Canada set to be protected by 2030, Land Trusts need the security of a federal endowment fund that is integrated with accreditation systems to ensure proper policy development and sustainable growth.
- Land trusts engage with hundreds of thousands of volunteers to ensure that education around conservation is accessible.
- Land trust work closely with municipalities to enhance full integration of the biodiversity in their planning and development processes.

TARGET 15 – Does Not Apply

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

(a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios.

(b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns.

(c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable.

in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

TARGET 16 – Does Not Apply

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, halve global food waste, significantly reduce overconsumption and substantially reduce waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

TARGET 17 – Does Not Apply

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries in biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

TARGET 18 – Does Not Apply

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective, and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least 500 billion United States dollars per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

TARGET 19 – Does Not Apply (except for c and f)

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public, and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year, including by:

(a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030.

(b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities, and circumstances

(c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments.

- Land Trusts have innovative approaches to raising and leveraging private finances to ensure their mandates and matching fund requirements are met.
- To remain sustainable and innovative, land trusts require endowment funding to ensure efforts to steward and protect land are possible for at least a thousand years.
- Innovative approaches, like developing a Canada-wide endowment fund for land trusts, can be done through the help of Land Trust alliances and Land Trust organizations to ensure funds are sustainable, measurable, monitored, and contribute to accreditation systems of land trusts in Canada.

(d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards

(e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises,

(f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions¹ and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity

- Land Trusts are committed to stewarding lands with Two-Eyed Seeing approaches and building relationships with Indigenous communities across Canada.
- Across Canada, more and more Indigenous-led Land Trusts and Conservation Organizations are being established so that land can be returned and held by the rightful owners.
 - Indigenous Peoples have been stewards of the land since time immemorial, but more recently have worked to abide by the colonial systems to ensure that land can be returned to them in western colonial systems.

- Partnering land trusts are committed to ensuring that Indigenous Knowledge and Indigenous partnerships are core in stewardship and conservation approaches.

(g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

Note1: Mother Earth Centric Actions: Ecocentric and rights-based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.

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TARGET 20 – Does Not Apply

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

TARGET 21

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, are accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent², in accordance with national legislation.

Note2: Free, prior, and informed consent refers to the tripartite terminology of “prior and informed consent” or “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement.

- Indigenous-led land trusts are leading with principles of Traditional Knowledge and learnings and sharing important data with their communities to advance conservation for the benefit of all peoples.
- Land Trusts practice, support, collect, and share Traditional and Western Knowledge, encompassing a Two-Eyed Seeing Approach, for the benefit of species and the ecosystems which they protect and for the benefit of the next seven generations.
- To meet monitoring requirements, land trusts collect species data, and water quality data, and mobilize countless volunteers and community members to participate in innovative citizen science programs.
- Land Trusts implement science-based conservation practices, such as habitat restoration and species management, that prioritize biodiversity conservation.
- Land Trusts make evidence-based decision making using scientific findings and knowledge from experts, Elders, and local communities to ensure that management practices benefit all.

TARGET 22

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

- Land Trust board members and executive teams are committed to reconciliation which can include, but is not limited to, stewardship of nature preserves, access to rightful lands, Land Back to Indigenous communities, and more.
- Land trusts engage with Indigenous communities, Elders, and knowledge-holders to learn about traditional knowledge and practices related to land use and management, and biocultural conservation.
- Land trusts can raise awareness about the importance and value of traditional knowledge and practices and promoting their preservation and revival.
- Land trusts can partner with Indigenous communities and organizations and support their self-determination and land rights as outlined in the UNDRIP.
- Most of the land trusts' work are local communities initiatives.

TARGET 23

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful, and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

- Land Trusts and nature organizations in general are predominantly led by women.
- Land Trusts have specific programs and volunteer opportunities to empower women in STEM and ensure that access to the outdoors is equitable for all.

Appendix A: Four Long-Term Goals of the GBF

GOAL A

- The integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, enhanced, or restored, substantially increasing the area of natural ecosystems by 2050.
- Human induced extinction of known threatened species is halted, and by 2050, extinction rate and risk of all species are reduced tenfold, and the abundance of native wild species is increased to healthy and resilient levels.
- The genetic diversity within populations of wild and domesticated species are maintained, safeguarding their adaptive potential.

GOAL B

- Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed and nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, are valued, maintained, and enhanced, with those currently in decline being restored, supporting the achievement of sustainable development, for the benefit of present and future generations by 2050.

GOAL C

- The monetary and non-monetary benefits from the utilization of genetic resources, and digital sequence information on genetic resources, and of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as applicable, are shared fairly and equitably, including, as appropriate with indigenous peoples and local communities, and substantially increased by 2050, while ensuring traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources is appropriately protected, thereby contributing to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in accordance with internationally agreed access and benefit-sharing instruments.

GOAL D

- Adequate means of implementation, including financial resources, capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, and access to and transfer of technology to fully implement the Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework are secured and equitably accessible to all Parties, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, progressively closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year, and aligning financial flows with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity.