



# DEVELOPMENT, HUMANITARIAN AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES GROUPS' COP15 STATEMENT

©Paul Hanaoka

Bridging climate and nature agendas at the critical juncture between COP27 and COP15, we are recognizing nature as a force for adaptation and mitigation in the climate crisis. Securing a nature-positive and people-positive world through an ambitious Global Biodiversity Framework at COP15 is crucial to achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

Continued loss of biodiversity threatens the opportunity to address poverty, social and environmental injustice, the climate crisis, and gender inequality. It is not possible to have healthy human populations thriving on a planet that is suffering. Furthermore, ongoing displacements, hunger, and conflicts are exacerbated by diminishing natural resources.

Many of the people living in the most marginalized situations in the world depend on natural landscapes for their livelihoods. Restoring nature will be essential for building their community resilience. Children, women, Indigenous Peoples and local communities experiencing inequality and discrimination are at the frontline of the climate change and nature crises. There is an urgent need to raise the ambition of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) negotiations in order to realize their rights to health, clean and safe environment; safe ownership of land; and food, water, and other natural resources in order to achieve food security and sovereignty.

Nature is part of our culture and identity and education is essential for the sustainable and equitable use of biodiversity, raising awareness on the importance of living in harmony with nature, such as through the concept of Mother Earth, and changing our consumer habits.



## **Key GBF demands for ambition and implementation:**

- Secure a nature-positive collective mission that commits the world to reverse biodiversity loss and improve the state of nature by 2030, against a 2020 baseline.
- Secure a human rights-based approach, including the full protection of environmental human rights defenders, intercultural policies and legislation that support women's and Indigenous Peoples' access to and ownership over productive resources and that guarantee access to biodiversity as a public good.
- Ensure safe, full, equal, and effective participation of groups in vulnerable situations such as Indigenous Peoples, women, children, and youth, and increase their knowledge, skills, and capacity to engage in biodiversity decision making and Post-2020 GBF implementation, including under the Action Agenda for Nature and People.
- Integrate Indigenous Peoples' knowledge systems into biodiversity decision making processes, and secure equal access and fair benefit sharing of genetic resources.
- Secure necessary finance from both public and private sources, and ensure the support is received at the community level - to those experiencing the impacts of nature loss the most - while investing in community capacity to access the funding.

## **Signatories:**

- Oxfam International
  - CARE International
  - Save the Children
  - International Rescue Committee
  - International Service for Human Rights
  - Helvetas
  - EAT
  - Practical Action
- 
- This statement was presented and read by Faith Nataya, a representative of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) at CBD COP15 on 16 December 2022.