

Financial Institution Statement ahead of the Convention on Biological Diversity COP15

This statement, coordinated by Ceres and the Finance for Biodiversity Foundation, is signed by XXX financial institutions representing over USD \$xxx trillion in assets.

We, the undersigned financial institutions, recognize the importance of biodiversity and ecosystem services, which form the foundation of our societies and the global economy¹. However, with up to 1 million species at risk from extinction and the rate of extinction accelerating², we are deeply concerned about the state of our planet.

The science is clear that we have one decade to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity³. Urgent action is needed to end deforestation and ensure sustainable land use, protect ocean and freshwater sustainability, tackle pollution, and address climate change. By 2030, nature loss must be reversed through improvements in the health, abundance, diversity and resilience of species, populations, and ecosystems.

As financial institutions, we recognize the need to protect, conserve and restore nature for future generations because we cannot generate value for our clients without a healthy biosphere. Biodiversity loss will have significant and systematic consequences for the global economy, and exposes us to market, credit, liquidity and operational risks. A realignment of our economies, including public and private financial flows, towards nature-positive pathways is imperative, and could deliver \$10 trillion of annual business opportunities and 395 million jobs by 2030⁴.

We support the establishment of an ambitious and transformational post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) for adoption at the 15th Conference of Parties of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15). We welcome the vision of “living in harmony with nature by 2050” through the recovery of natural ecosystems with net improvements by 2050⁵. To achieve this vision and to ensure that the next set of targets are met, unlike the Aichi targets⁶, action to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030 must urgently be scaled up by all stakeholders.

Building on the Leaders’ Pledge for Nature and the G7 Nature Compact, the next draft of the GBF should more accurately reflect the sense of urgency and the level of ambition required to protect and restore biodiversity. It is essential that the GBF highlights the important role that financial institutions and the private sector can and should play in delivering the 2030 milestones and the 2050 goals. We welcome Target 15 for businesses but think the GBF should go further in providing clear pathways, ambitious and enforceable targets, and relevant guidance that would enable the private sector to contribute to implementing the GBF. We strongly believe that the GBF should include an explicit expectation for financial institutions and businesses to align financial flows to global biodiversity goals, supported by appropriate regulatory measures and financial incentives.

As financial institutions, we urge governments to create an enabling environment that promotes corporate action and disclosure to address biodiversity-related risks and opportunities. Furthermore, given the strong link between climate change and biodiversity loss⁷, we encourage a harmonized policy approach that will deliver net-zero greenhouse gas emissions in-line with the goals of the Paris Agreement, and tackle the nature crisis.

¹ [Dasgupta, P. \(2021\), *The Economics of Biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review. Abridged Version.* \(London: HM Treasury\).](#)

² [IPBES \(2019\): *Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services.*](#)

³ [WWF \(2020\) *Living Planet Report - Bending the curve of biodiversity loss.*](#)

⁴ [World Economic Forum \(2020\), *The Future Of Nature And Business.*](#)

⁵ [Convention on Biological Diversity, *First Draft of The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(see page 4 ‘Theory of Change’\)*](#)

⁶ [Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity \(2020\) *Global Biodiversity Outlook 5.*](#)

⁷ [IPBES-IPCC Co-Sponsored Workshop Report \(2021\), *Biodiversity and Climate Change.*](#)

We call on governments to:

1. Agree on an ambitious and transformational post-2020 GBF that requires the alignment of financial flows to global biodiversity goals;
2. Strengthen national biodiversity strategy and action plans (NBSAPs) to ensure successful implementation of the GBF and enforce domestic policies to deliver biodiversity targets;
3. Establish a regulatory environment that enables financial institutions to address biodiversity-related risks and opportunities, including introducing consistent and decision-useful corporate disclosure requirements;
4. Remove all harmful subsidies and reverse them into aligned subsidies to bring about change in the real economy and alleviate market failures.

As financial institutions, we are committed to action. Capital allocation, stewardship, and lending decisions play an important role in generating sustainable outcomes for people and the planet. Strong policies, in line with the GBF, can accelerate and scale up private capital flows towards a net-zero and nature-positive economy. We encourage governments to engage closely with investors to make sure these opportunities are fully realized.

At this critical point, we urge all governments to step up their collective response to the nature crisis. We look forward to collaborating to halt and reverse biodiversity loss in this decade and achieve the long-term vision of living in harmony with nature.