

DECEMBER 2022



COP15 Biodiversity Conference

nhsclimateforum.org



COP15 Biodiversity Conference Spotlight

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held its COP15 conference from December 7 - 19, 2022, in Montreal, Canada. COP15 was originally planned to take place in October 2020, in Kunming, China, but was delayed four times due to the pandemic and the logistical challenges it created. Governments from around the world, representing roughly 190 countries, attended the conference in order to create a new set of goals through which to guide global conservation efforts through 2030. Of primary concern to delegates was reversing loss of nature and biodiversity around the world in the next decade. The conference culminated in the creation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which includes 4 goals and 23 targets for 2030, related to conservation. Although commitments made at COP15 and in the GBF are legally non-binding, these goals and initiatives should form the foundation of any efforts going forward.

Preserving Earth's biodiversity is critical for sustainable living and is the core of nature-based solutions for solving climate change. Protecting biodiversity demands ensuring the ongoing health of ecosystems and wildlife populations globally, while regulating our own society so as not to encroach on or indirectly harm these areas. COP15 demonstrated that biodiversity is a social, economic, and political issue, and must be treated as such.

NHSCF Delegate Mina Adabag attended COP15 on behalf of EarthEcho International, to speak on the importance of youth advocacy and the 30x30 initiative, which seeks to put 30% of land and 30% of ocean on Earth under protection by 2030. COP15 concluded with nearly every country on Earth signing onto that initiative, in tandem with the GBF.

According to Mina's observations from the conference, the GBF is primarily based on past goals created at similar conferences. That being said, national delegates convened in a large hall and stated their positions on different aspects of each target. Much of the negotiation occurred related to punctuation and even specific words/terms, while the most contentious disagreements often fell on bracketed terms! Despite slow progress and a lack of legal means to enforce plans or goals, COP15 had tremendous theoretical success.

Notably, the U.S. did not send a national delegation to COP15 and U.S. delegates were forced to participate unofficially, as a result of domestic political objections. Biden's America the Beautiful Initiative captures many of our specific national conservation goals.

Sources:

<https://chinadialogue.net/en/nature/11873-explainer-cop15-the-biggest-biodiversity-conference-in-a-decade/>

[https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/19/climate/biodiversity-cop15-montreal-30x30.html?](https://www.nytimes.com/2022/12/19/climate/biodiversity-cop15-montreal-30x30.html?campaign_id=9&emc=edit_nn_20221220&instance_id=80660&nl=the-)

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<https://www.cbd.int/article/cop15-cbd-press-release-final-19dec2022>

School Initiative Spotlights

As part of our mission, the NHSCF hopes to highlight ongoing initiatives in our member schools each month. We hope that you will contribute to this newsletter section in the future!

The Lawrenceville School, NJ

The Lawrenceville School Sustainability Council is currently planning our annual "Sustainuary" series of events, including our trashion show, where students from each house (or dorm) on campus create an outfit from recycled materials for a competition in front of the whole school. Sustainuary will also include vegan cooking workshop and a school-wide scavenger hunt in the dark, for which we hope to turn off all of the lights on campus one Saturday evening!

Seven Hills School, OH

The Seven Hills Environmental Club is planning to do a Rumpke Trash Audit to learn what types of waste we create on campus. This audit will also give us data to present to our school as we try to implant a composting system to reduce food wastage specifically.

The Derryfield School, NH

The Derryfield School's Green Club in Manchester, NH just sent out our first newsletter of the school year about a sustainable holiday season. Going into the new year, we want to take some more physical action by hosting a tree planting event as well as a clothes and book swap.

Indian Springs School, AL

The Indian Springs Sustainability Club holds an annual fundraiser each Earth Day to support a stand out environmental organization. Leading up to the event, club members nominate organizations of note. A final vote is then held to determine which organization we plan to support. This year, we will sell herb planting kits to raise funds, which will include seeds, a pot, and instructions on how to plant the seeds. We will spotlight students' sprouting herb gardens on our Instagram, @issustainabilityclub.

North Cedar Academy, WI

The North Cedar Academy Sustainable club is currently focusing on recycling. Students have gone around school analyzing the percentage of trash that is properly recycled, and made awareness posters and digital messages to be sent to all staff and students. We also had members of the sustainability committee give staff of the school a talk about data we collected, and received approval for the start of the "no bin in classroom" movement. We decided to remove bins in classrooms so that students have to throw their garbage out in designated locations where information on garbage and recycling are all being shown at once, raising the chances of people noticing.

NHSCF Announcements

Keep an eye out for announcements related to our January 2023 Delegate Meeting and our February 2023 Speaker Event on Rewilding! Details on both of these events will be out soon!



Thanks for Reading!

Thank you for reading the NHSCF December 2022 Newsletter! We hope you've enjoyed and learned! Here are a few more interesting article recommendations, from our leaders. Click the title to take you to the page:

- [**Winter Sustainability Tips**](#)
- [**Global Biodiversity Framework Goals/Targets**](#)
- [**World Cup Emissions**](#)

NHSCF 2022-23 EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

Don't hesitate to reach out with questions, comments, or suggestions.
We love to hear from delegates!

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