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Legislative Summary

BILL C-73: AN ACT RESPECTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATION TO CERTAIN COMMITMENTS CANADA HAS MADE UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

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For clarity of exposition, the legislative proposals set out in the bill described in this legislative summary are stated as if they had already been adopted or were in force. It is important to note, however, that bills may be amended during their consideration by the Senate and House of Commons and have no force or effect unless and until they are passed by both houses of Parliament, receive Royal Assent and come into force.

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Legislative Summary of Bill C-73
(Preliminary version)

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LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY OF BILL C-73: AN ACT RESPECTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN RELATION TO CERTAIN COMMITMENTS CANADA HAS MADE UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

1 BACKGROUND

Bill C-73, An Act respecting transparency and accountability in relation to certain commitments Canada has made under the Convention on Biological Diversity (short title: Nature Accountability Act), was introduced in the House of Commons on 13 June 2024 by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (the Minister).¹

The bill had not received second reading before dying on the *Order Paper* when the 1st Session of the 44th Parliament was prorogued on 6 January 2025.²

The bill's purpose is to:

- recognize Canada's commitment to the global targets set by the Conference of the Parties, which is the governing body of the United Nations *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), and the long-term goals and 2050 vision set out in the *Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* (KMGBF);
- promote the federal government's transparency and accountability of how it hopes to meet those targets; and
- encourage collaboration to develop and implement ways to meet those targets.

To achieve these objectives, the Minister will:

- establish a national biodiversity strategy and action plan;
- provide national reports to the Secretariat of the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Convention Secretariat); and
- establish an advisory committee to provide independent advice.

The bill also requires that a parliamentary committee review the Nature Accountability Act by the end of 2030 and every 10 years after that.

1.1 THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

The CBD is an international legal instrument. It was opened for signature at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Rio “Earth Summit”) in June 1992 and signed by Canada that same month. Canada ratified the CBD in December 1992.³ The CBD entered into force in December 1993. Canada’s ratification of the CBD means that it agreed to be bound by it once the CBD entered into force.⁴ As of **February 2025**, there are 196 State parties to the CBD.⁵

The CBD’s objectives are set out in Article 1 as follows:

the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding.⁶

The CBD defines biological diversity (or biodiversity) as “the variability among living organisms from all sources including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.”⁷ More simply put, biodiversity is the “diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems.”⁸ It includes genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.⁹

According to a 2019 global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services completed by the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), an independent intergovernmental body comprising over 130 members, nature is

essential for human existence and good quality of life. Most of nature’s contributions to people are not fully replaceable, and some are irreplaceable. Nature plays a critical role in providing food and feed, energy, medicines and genetic resources and a variety of materials fundamental for people’s physical well-being and for maintaining culture.¹⁰

According to the text of the KMGBF (discussed below), biodiversity is

fundamental to human well-being, a healthy planet, and economic prosperity for all people, including for living well in balance and in harmony with Mother Earth. We depend on it for food, medicine, energy, clean air and water, security from natural disasters as well as recreation and cultural inspiration, and it supports all systems of life on Earth.¹¹

The IPBES has also written that biodiversity is “declining faster than at any time in human history.”¹² The most important direct causes of global biodiversity loss are “changes in land and sea use, direct exploitation of organisms, climate change, pollution and invasion of alien species.”¹³

As human activities disturb more habitats and species, more species are facing extinction. The current global extinction rate for species is already much higher than the average extinction rate over the past 10 million years.¹⁴ Up to 1 million species may already be facing extinction; “many [could go extinct] within decades, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of drivers of biodiversity loss.”¹⁵

Many wildlife species in Canada are facing population decline. Between 1970 and 2018 in Canada, the population abundance of 108 monitored mammal species decreased by 42% on average and the population abundance of 375 monitored fish species decreased by 30% on average.¹⁶ While populations of waterfowl, wetland birds and birds of prey in Canada increased between 1970 and 2020, shorebird, grassland bird and aerial insectivore bird populations in Canada decreased by between 40% and 70% over the same period.¹⁷

The IPBES states that nature “can be conserved, restored and used sustainably while other global societal goals are simultaneously met through urgent and concerted efforts fostering transformative change.”¹⁸

Article 6 of the CBD, “General Measures for Conservation and Sustainable Use,” requires that parties either develop new or adapt existing national strategies “for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity” to reflect the CBD’s measures.¹⁹ These strategies are called national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and are submitted to the Convention Secretariat’s repository.²⁰

Article 10(a) of the CBD, “Sustainable Use of Components of Biological Diversity,” asks parties to “[i]ntegrate consideration of the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources into national decision-making” as far as possible and as appropriate.²¹

Article 26 of the CBD, “Reports,” requires that parties submit reports to the Conference of the Parties on “measures which it has taken for the implementation of the provisions of this Convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of this Convention.”²² The intervals between national reports are determined by the Conference of the Parties.²³

1.1.1 *The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*

In December 2022, the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) was held in Montréal, Quebec. At COP15, the KMGBF was adopted by the 196 parties to the CBD as a strategic plan to “halt and reverse biodiversity loss” that aims to “catalyze, enable and galvanize urgent and transformative action” by different levels of governments as well as society in general.²⁴

The vision of the KMGBF for 2050 is a “world of living in harmony with nature where ... biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”²⁵ The KMGBF has four overarching goals to be achieved by 2050 which

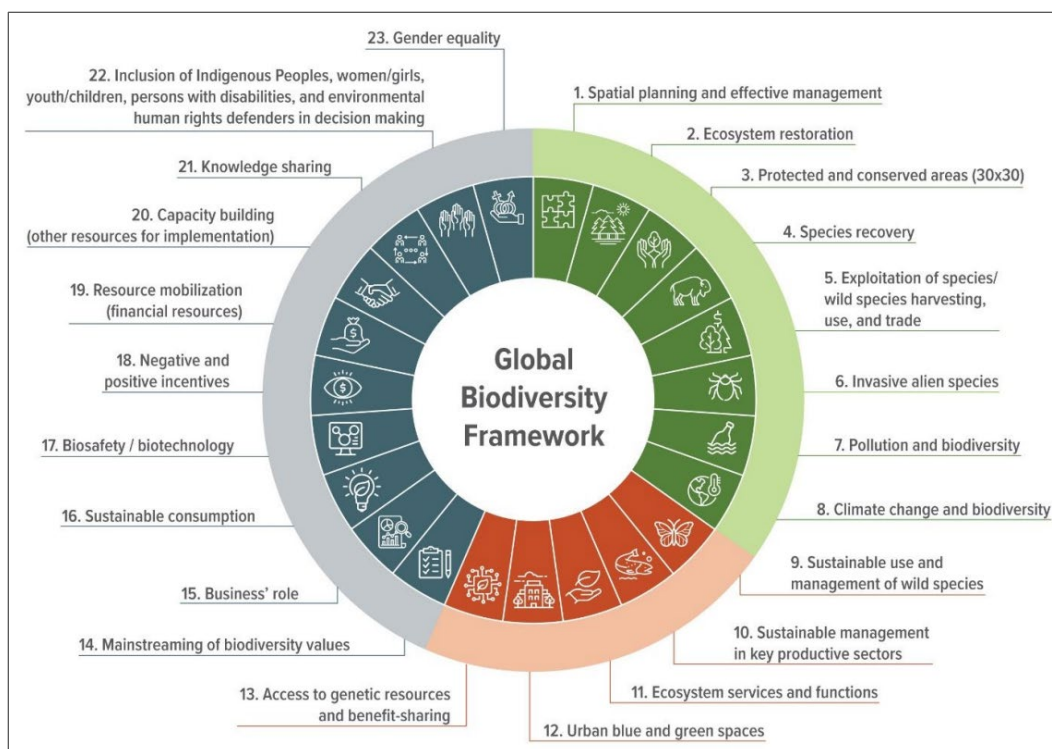
focus on ecosystem and species health including to halt human-induced species extinction, the sustainable use of biodiversity, equitable sharing of benefits, and on implementation and finance to include closing the biodiversity finance gap of \$700 billion per year.²⁶

The KMGBF also has “23 action-oriented global targets for urgent action over the decade to 2030,” divided into three categories:

- reducing threats to biodiversity;
- meeting people’s needs through sustainable use and benefit-sharing; and
- tools and solutions for implementations and mainstreaming.²⁷

Figure 1 provides “a high-level visual overview of the KMGBF’s three themes and the targets that fall under each of those themes.”²⁸

**Figure 1 – The 23 Global Targets of the
Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**



Source: Government of Canada, "[Halting and reversing biodiversity loss](#)," *Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada*.

The KMGBF requires that parties update their NBSAPs to align them with the targets and goals in the KMGBF. This will contribute to its successful implementation through responsibility and transparency to be “supported by effective mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review, forming an agreed, synchronized and cyclical system.”²⁹

1.2 CANADA'S NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS AND NATIONAL REPORTS UNDER THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Canada has submitted NBSAPs and national reports to the Convention Secretariat since becoming a signatory to the CBD.³⁰ The Government of Canada first developed the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity*³¹ in 1995 to meet the obligation under Article 6 of the CBD. *A Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada*³² was then released in 2006, followed by *Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and 2020 Goals and Targets* in 2016.³³

On 13 June 2024, the same day that Bill C-73 was tabled in the House of Commons, Canada's third NBSAP, *Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada* (the Strategy), was released.³⁴ Annex 1 of the Strategy provides an overview of what the federal government is doing to address each of the 23 goals of the KMGBF as well as planned and potential actions.³⁵ The Strategy is an example of an NBSAP aligned with the KMGBF that Bill C-73 requires.

Canada's sixth national report was submitted to the Convention Secretariat's repository in 2018.³⁶ Decision 15/6, *Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, requests that parties submit their seventh national report by 28 February 2026 and their eighth national report by 30 June 2029.³⁷ These upcoming national reports should be aligned with goals and targets of the KMGBF.

2 DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

2.1 PREAMBLE AND SHORT TITLE

The 10-paragraph Preamble reflects language and principles contained in the CBD and the KMGBF. For example, the Preamble refers to the “intrinsic value” of biodiversity and emphasizes that immediate and transformative action is required to address biodiversity loss. The Preamble also quotes paragraph 10 of the KMGBF which refers to the necessity of biodiversity being “valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”³⁸

The KMGBF states that governments must ensure that its implementation is done in a manner that respects Indigenous rights.³⁹ This is similarly acknowledged in Bill C-73's Preamble which refers to the commitment to respect Aboriginal and treaty rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The Preamble also acknowledges the unique relationships Indigenous peoples in Canada have with lands and waters, and their “important role as stewards of biodiversity.”

The short title of the bill is the Nature Accountability Act (clause 1).

2.2 PURPOSE
(CLAUSE 4)

Clause 4 sets out the following three purposes of the bill:

- recognizing Canada's commitment to the global targets set by the Conference of the Parties and the long-term goals and 2050 vision set out in the KMGBF;
- promoting the federal government's transparency and accountability of how it hopes to meet those targets; and
- encouraging several forms of collaboration to develop and implement ways to meet those targets.

2.3 NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN
(CLAUSE 5)

Clause 5 requires the Minister to establish an NBSAP. These documents are to be submitted to the Convention Secretariat by deadlines established under the Convention. Decision 15/6, *Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requested that parties update their NBSAP to align them with the targets and goals of the KMGBF in advance of COP16, **which began in Cali, Colombia in the fall of 2024 and resumed in Rome, Italy in February 2025.**⁴⁰ As mentioned above, Canada first developed the *Canadian Biodiversity Strategy*⁴¹ in 1995 to meet its obligation under Article 6 of the CBD. *A Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada*⁴² was then released in 2006, followed by *Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and 2020 Goals and Targets* in 2016.⁴³ Canada's most recent NBSAP, *Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada*,⁴⁴ was released on 13 June 2024 and has been submitted to the Convention Secretariat. The Strategy's "Annex 1: Federal target-specific implementation plans" provides an overview of current and future action to achieve each of the 23 KMGBF goals.

Clause 5(2) requires that the NBSAP include past or proposed federal measures aimed at contributing to meeting global targets and long-term goals. The NBSAP can also include "any other information that the Minister considers appropriate," such as provincial or municipal measures, or measures taken by Indigenous peoples (clause 5(3)(a)).

Factors that must be considered by the Minister when establishing the NBSAP include "the best scientific and technological knowledge," Indigenous knowledge, Indigenous rights affirmed by the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*,⁴⁵ the precautionary principle,⁴⁶ the principle of non-regression,⁴⁷

and the goal of advancing equality, “including in light of the intersection of sex and gender with other identity factors” (clause 5(4)). Both Target 22 and Target 23 of the KMGBF refer specifically to women and girls.⁴⁸ Target 22 focuses on ensuring the “full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity” of a number of groups, including women and girls. Target 23 focuses on ensuring gender equality in the Framework’s implementation. While Bill C-73’s only reference to gender is in clause 5(4)(g), the Strategy itself acknowledges that more work needs to be done in the context of Target 23, including seeking “to strengthen and align existing federal approaches to gender-responsive and gender-transformative strategies to support and inform gender equality in biodiversity fora.”⁴⁹

The NBSAP must respect the rights of Indigenous peoples contained in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1985* (clause 5(5)).

The Minister must consult appropriate federal ministers to develop the NBSAP (clause 5(6)). The Minister must also provide opportunities to make submissions, including by provincial governments, Indigenous peoples and the advisory committee which is to be established and which is to include members with relevant scientific expertise, relevant Indigenous knowledge, and biodiversity policy expertise (clause 5(7) and clause 7). The NBSAP must be tabled in the House of Commons and the Senate (clause 5(8)) as well as published after it is submitted to the Convention Secretariat (clause 5(9)).

Other federal environmental laws require a plan to be developed. For example, the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* and the *Canadian Net-Zero Accountability Act* require the Government of Canada to periodically produce a federal sustainable development strategy and a greenhouse gas emissions reduction plan, respectively.⁵⁰

2.4 REPORTING

Clause 6 requires the Minister to prepare a national report which must be submitted to the Convention Secretariat by deadlines established under the Convention. As previously mentioned, Canada’s sixth report was submitted to the Convention Secretariat in 2018.⁵¹ Decision 15/6, *Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review*, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity requests that parties submit their seventh national report by 28 February 2026 and their eighth national report by 30 June 2029.⁵²

The national report must assess how the NBSAPs have contributed to meeting global targets and long-term goals, set out past or proposed corrective measures if there has been a failure to meet any targets or goals, and include “any other information that the Minister considers appropriate” (clause 6(2)). Other information to be considered when preparing the national report includes the factors to be considered when establishing the NBSAP, such as “the best scientific and technical knowledge” and Indigenous knowledge, as well as submissions made by provincial governments, Indigenous peoples, and the advisory committee (clause 6(3)).

When preparing the national report, the Minister must respect the rights of Indigenous peoples contained in section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1985* (clause 6(4)). As well, the Minister must consult appropriate federal ministers to develop the national report (clause 6(5)), and provide opportunities to make submissions, including by provincial governments, Indigenous peoples and the advisory committee (clause 6(6)).

The national report must be tabled in the House of Commons and the Senate (clause 6(7)). It must also be published in a manner deemed appropriate by the Minister after it is submitted to the Convention Secretariat (clause 6(8)).

Other federal environmental laws require reporting on progress. For example, the *Federal Sustainable Development Act* and the *Canadian Net-Zero Accountability Act* require the Government of Canada to produce progress reports.⁵³

2.5 ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Clause 7(1) requires that the Minister establish an advisory committee which will provide independent advice relating to, for example, federal action that could be taken in relation to Canada’s commitment to the global targets set by the Conference of the Parties and the long-term goals and 2050 vision set out in the KMGBF. The advisory committee will also advise on any other matter the Minister refers to it.

There is no set number of advisory committee members; clause 7(3) provides that “one or more persons” can be appointed. As mentioned above, the advisory committee appointments should reflect the need to include scientific expertise, Indigenous knowledge and biodiversity international, national and subnational policy expertise (clause 7(4)).

The *Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act* also establishes an advisory body (the Net-Zero Advisory Body).⁵⁴

2.6 GENERAL PROVISIONS

Clause 8 provides that the NBSAPs are not statutory instruments for the purpose of the *Statutory Instruments Act*, nor are the terms of reference that the Minister can establish for the advisory committee. This means, for one, that they do not have to be published in the *Canada Gazette*, Part II.

Finally, parliamentary committee review of the Nature Accountability Act must happen no later than 31 December 2030, and must be repeated at 10-year intervals (clause 9). While some laws relating to the environment require the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (CESD) to review plans or progress, Bill C-73 does not require such a review.⁵⁵ However, since the CESD may identify topics of interest related to sustainable development to examine under section 23(2) of the *Auditor General Act*, the CESD could select topics related to biodiversity, including the NBSAP and national report required under this bill or elements of them.

NOTES

1. [Bill C-73: An Act respecting transparency and accountability in relation to certain commitments Canada has made under the Convention on Biological Diversity](#), 44th Parliament, 1st Session.
The Charter Statement was tabled by the Minister of Justice on 18 June 2024.
See Government of Canada, [Bill C-73: An Act respecting transparency and accountability in relation to certain commitments Canada has made under the Convention on Biological Diversity – Charter Statement](#), 18 June 2024.
2. **On 6 November 2024, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Environment and Sustainable Development (ENVI) adopted a motion to hold a minimum of five meetings to study the subject matter of Bill C-73. Two meetings were held in November and December 2024.**
See ENVI, [Minutes of Proceedings](#), 6 November 2024; and ENVI, [Subject Matter of Bill C-73. An Act respecting transparency and accountability in relation to certain commitments Canada has made under the Convention on Biological Diversity](#).
3. United Nations, United Nations Treaty Collection, "[8. Convention on Biological Diversity – Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992](#)," *Chapter XXVII – Environment*.
For more information on the *Convention on Biological Diversity* (CBD), see United Nations, [Convention on Biological Diversity](#).
4. Laura Barnett, [Canada's Approach to the Treaty-Making Process](#), Publication no. 2008-45-E, Library of Parliament, 1 April 2021.
5. United Nations, United Nations Treaty Collection, "[8. Convention on Biological Diversity – Rio de Janeiro, 5 June 1992](#)," *Chapter XXVII – Environment*.
6. United Nations, [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), 5 June 1992, art. 1.
7. *Ibid.*, art. 2.
8. Sandra Díaz et al., eds., [Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services](#), Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), 2019, p. 10.
9. Office of the Auditor General of Canada, "[What is biodiversity?](#)," *Biodiversity in Canada: Commitments and Trends*, October 2022.

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10. Sandra Díaz et al., eds., [Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services](#), IPBES, 2019, p. 10.
11. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, art. 1.
12. Sandra Díaz et al., eds., [Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services](#), IPBES, 2019, p. 10.
13. Ibid., p. 12.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Government of Canada, [Canadian species index](#).
17. Birds Canada and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), [The State of Canada's Birds 2024](#).
18. Sandra Díaz et al., eds., [Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services](#), IPBES, 2019, p. 16.
19. United Nations, [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), 5 June 1992, art. 6.
20. The complete name of the repository of the Secretariat of the *Convention on Biodiversity* (Convention Secretariat) is “Clearing-House Mechanism of the Convention on Biological Diversity.”
21. United Nations, [Convention on Biological Diversity](#), 5 June 1992, art. 10(a).
22. Ibid., art. 26.
23. Ibid.

The deadline was set for the first national report at the third Conference of the Parties (COP3) ([decision III/9](#)), for the second national report at COP5 ([decision V/19](#)), for the third national report at COP7 ([decision VII/25](#)), for the fourth national report at COP8 ([decision VIII/14](#)), for the fifth national report at COP10 ([decision X/10](#)), for the sixth national report at COP13 ([decision XIII/27](#)) and for the seventh and eight national reports at COP15 ([decision 15/6](#)).
24. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, para. 1; and Annex, para. 4.
25. Ibid., Annex, para. 10.
26. United Nations Environment Program, [Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022.

To consult the four goals, see Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, para. 12.
27. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, para. 13.

For more information on the targets, see CBD, [2030 Targets \(with Guidance Notes\)](#).
28. Government of Canada, “[Halting and reversing biodiversity loss](#),” *Canada’s 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada*.
29. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, para. 16(a).
30. To consult Canada’s national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs) and national reports, see CBD, [National Reports and NBSAPs](#); and Clearing-House Mechanism, [Sixth National Report \(NR6\)](#).
31. Environment Canada, [Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada’s Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1995](#), 1995.



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32. Government of Canada, [A Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada](#).
33. ECCC, [Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and 2020 Goals & Targets](#), 2016.
- On 31 May 2016, Canada advised the Convention Secretariat that Canada's revised NBSAP was constituted of *A Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada* and the 2020 biodiversity goals and targets presented in *Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and 2020 Goals & Targets*. See CBD, "Canada National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (v.2)," [National Reports and NBSAPs](#).
34. ECCC, [National strategy to protect nature in Canada unveiled alongside bill to ensure accountability](#), News release, 13 June 2024; and Government of Canada, [Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada](#).
35. Government of Canada, [Annex 1: Federal target-specific implementation plans](#)," *Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada*.
36. Clearing-House Mechanism, [Sixth National Report \(NR6\)](#).
- The Convention Secretariat received the [first national report](#) in 1999, the [second national report](#) in 2001, the [third national report](#) in 2005, the [fourth national report](#) in 2009 and the [fifth national report](#) in 2014.
37. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review](#), 19 December 2022, para. 11.
38. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, para. 10.
39. Ibid., Annex, para. 7.
40. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review](#), 19 December 2022, para. 6.
- The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity was originally scheduled to be held between 21 October and 1 November 2024 in Cali, Colombia. Budget-related decisions were taken in December 2024. A resumed session of COP16 occurred between 25 and 27 February 2025 in Rome, Italy.**
- By COP16, 44 countries, including Canada, had submitted updated NBSAPs aligned with the targets and goals of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.**
- See CBD, [United Nations Biodiversity Conference – COP 16 / CP-MOP 11 / NP-MOP 5](#); and Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [Annotated provisional agenda for the second resumed session](#), CBD/COP/16/1/Add.4, 8 January 2025.**
41. Environment Canada, [Canadian Biodiversity Strategy: Canada's Response to the Convention on Biological Diversity 1995](#), 1995.
42. Government of Canada, [A Biodiversity Outcomes Framework for Canada](#).
43. ECCC, [Canada's Biodiversity Outcomes Framework and 2020 Goals & Targets](#), 2016.
44. Government of Canada, [Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada](#).
45. United Nations, [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), 13 September 2007.
46. Clause 5(4)(d) of Bill C-73 states that, under the precautionary principal, "if there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biodiversity, a lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to avoid or minimize such a threat."
47. As described in clause 5(4)(e) of Bill C-73, the principle of non-regression "requires that appropriate measures be taken, based on current scientific and technological knowledge and on Indigenous knowledge, to prevent any regression of Canada's contributions to the attainment of the global targets and to make continuous progress in Canada's contributions to the attainment of the long-term goals."

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48. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [*Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/4. Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework*](#), 19 December 2022, Annex, para. 13.
49. Government of Canada, [*Canada's 2030 Nature Strategy: Halting and Reversing Biodiversity Loss in Canada*](#).
50. [*Federal Sustainable Development Act*](#), S.C. 2008, c. 33, s. 9(1); and [*Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*](#), S.C. 2021, c. 22, s. 9(1).
[*Federal sustainable development strategies*](#) and the [*2030 Emissions Reductions Plan*](#), the first emissions reduction plan prepared under the *Canadian Net-Zero Accountability Act*, and are available online.
51. Clearing-House Mechanism, [*Sixth National Report \(NR6\)*](#).
52. Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, [*Decision Adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity – 15/6. Mechanisms for planning, monitoring, reporting and review*](#), 19 December 2022, para. 11.
53. [*Federal Sustainable Development Act*](#), S.C. 2008, c. 33, s. 7(2); and [*Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*](#), S.C. 2021, c. 22, s. 14(1).
The [*progress reports for federal sustainable development strategies*](#) and the [*2023 Progress Report on the 2030 Emissions Reductions Plan*](#) are available online.
54. [*Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*](#), S.C. 2021, c. 22, ss. 20 and 21; and Government of Canada, [*Net-Zero Advisory Body*](#).
55. [*Federal Sustainable Development Act*](#), S.C. 2008, c. 33, s. 9(4); [*Auditor General Act*](#), R.S.C. 1985, c. A-17, s. 23(3); and [*Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act*](#), S.C. 2021, c. 22, s. 24(1).