First Ministerial Meeting of the International Steering Committee for the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People takes place on the margins of UNGA 77 to drive forward the implementation of the 30x30 target

Official Communiqué
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This communiqué summarizes the first ministerial in-person meeting of the International Steering Committee for the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People (HAC for N&P). The meeting was co-chaired by H.E. Arnoldo André, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica, H.E. Bérangère Couillard, Ministry of State for Ecology from France, and Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith, Minister for Asia, Energy, Climate and Environment of the United Kingdom. It was held in-person in New York City on the margins of the 77th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 77), last September 22nd, 2022. The meeting was held just two days after the HAC for N&P officially launched the next phase of the coalition’s work, referred to as HAC 2.0, at a high-level event that included heads of states and other government leaders and other relevant stakeholders.

The HAC for N&P, co-chaired by Costa Rica, France and the United Kingdom, is an intergovernmental science-based coalition of more than 100 countries that has been at the center of recent international negotiations at the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Since officially launching at the One Planet Summit in January 2021, the coalition has worked to ensure the approval of a target to protect and conserve at least 30% of the planet’s land and ocean by 2030, known as the 30x30 target, within the CBD Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The coalition remains committed to achieving this ambitious outcome at the fifteenth Conference of Parties (COP15) in Montréal.

The HAC for N&P co-chairs recognize the value and strength of this intergovernmental coalition and have held ministerial level discussions amongst several countries of the coalition to determine what role the coalition should play in addition to supporting the agreement of a 30x30 target, particularly in implementing it once the Framework is adopted. Members expressed strong interest in keeping the coalition together and working beyond CBD COP15 to support achieving this target.

To formalize this next phase of work for the coalition, the HAC for N&P has established an International Steering Committee, developed a roadmap for its collective work, and has agreed to form a Secretariat that will support the development of the 4 main objectives of the HAC 2.0 which include: maintaining political engagement; sharing best practices and knowledge for protected areas, and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), including mutual collaboration and dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs); establishing partnerships to help provide technical support; and helping countries identify and pursue available funding.

Ministers and High-level representatives from Australia, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, France, Gabon, Germany, Japan, Maldives, Norway, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom and the United States of America attended the meeting. The ministers and high-level representatives in attendance today approved the coalition’s next steps.

The Ministers and high-level representatives officials also held a fruitful dialogue with international philanthropies that are supporting implementation of the 30x30 global target. This segment of the meeting was co-facilitated by Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith and Mr. Cristián Samper, Managing Director and Leader of
Nature Solutions of the Bezos Earth Fund and included several philanthropies that launched the Protecting our Planet Challenge in 2021, which pledged US$5 billion to help implement 30x30, marking the largest private funding commitment ever made to biodiversity conservation. High-level representatives from philanthropic organizations such as Bezos Earth Fund, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation, Oceans 5, Rainforest Trust, RE:WILD, the Pew Charitable Trust and Patagonia, participated at the meeting.

Peter Lallas, Advisor, conflict resolution commissioner from the Global Environment Facility (the GEF), Craig Hanson, Managing Director and Executive Vice President for Programs of the World Resources Institute (WRI) and Brian O’Donnell, Director of Campaign for Nature (CfN) also participated at the meeting as strategic partners of the HAC 2.0.

Governments and philanthropists agreed to work together as the HAC for N&P moves to the next phase of its work. Several philanthropies pledged to financially support the HAC 2.0 structure and activities, and all governments and philanthropies agreed that more funding from all sources will be needed for 30x30 implementation efforts to be fully successful.

Finally, many philanthropists expressly indicated their interest and immediate availability to finance the structure of HAC 2.0.

Following the official launch of HAC 2.0, the structure, roadmap and main functions of the initiative and its Secretariat have been duly approved. Political commitment at the highest level will be maintained both in international negotiations and in the implementation of this global target, which scientists have clearly stated is needed to help stop the loss of biodiversity and address climate change and desertification, with the ultimate goal of living in harmony with nature by 2050.

More information on the HAC for N&P, including the HAC 2.0 implementation phase will be included on the website at: [HAC for Nature and People](https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org)

“The first ministerial meeting of the International Steering Committee laid the foundations for the construction and operationalization of the HAC 2.0, which allows the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People and its 100+ countries, to work together on the implementation to actually deliver at least 30% protection of land and ocean by 2030, this next phase would focus on implementation of the 30x30 having as central partners indigenous peoples and local communities, and joining efforts and cooperation with international philanthropists, civil society, private sector, and the academia amongst others, to halt biodiversity loss and address climate change and desertification” said H.E. Arnoldo André Tinoco, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica.

“The HAC nature and people is the biggest biodiversity coalition in the international arena. We need to make use of this political will to create the concrete conditions to protecting at least 30% of the planet’s land and ocean by 2030 as soon as the forthcoming global biodiversity framework is adopted. That’s why we want the new HAC 2.0 to be a flexible platform connecting “30x30” projects managers and donors.” said H.E. Bérangère Couillard, French Minister of State in charge of Ecology.

“It is absolutely essential that we are able to support the implementation of ambitious new targets as soon as they are adopted after COP15. We have no time to lose. HAC 2.0 will help ensure this is possible for

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1 [https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org](https://www.hacfornatureandpeople.org)
the 30 by 30 target and this first ministerial meeting shows political will is very much behind this fantastic initiative” said Hon. Lord Zac Goldsmith, Minister for Asia, Energy, Climate and Environment of the United Kingdom.