COP15: What is happening with the UN’s flagship Biodiversity Summit?

**First stage –** 11th – 15th October 2021 – Online

**Second stage –** 5th – 17th December 2022 in Montreal, Canada although chaired by China due to venue move from Kunming, China

**Website link to the COP15**: [click here.](https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15)

[COP15](https://www.unep.org/events/conference/un-biodiversity-conference-cop-15) is a collection of representatives from the governments and regional bodies (such as the EU) that developed and ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The CBD is an international treaty developed as part of the [1992 Rio Conference aka “the Earth Summit”](https://www.un.org/en/conferences/environment/rio1992), which established three main goals:

1. The conservation of biological diversity;
2. The sustainable use of its ‘components’ such as, ecosystems and species;
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the ‘use of genetic resources’, meaning drugs and technologies derived from nature.

**The Global Biodiversity Framework**

There have been preliminary talks in Geneva, around the [Post-2020 global biodiversity framework](https://sdg.iisd.org/news/first-draft-of-global-biodiversity-framework-identifies-four-goals-for-2050/) (GBF) – often referred to as the “Paris Agreement for nature”, which they hope to adopt at COP15 in December. This will act as a guide for nations to implement action-based targets to save biodiversity, halting loss by 2030 and to achieve recovery by 2050.

The outcome will decide how the world will address the challenges of reducing the extinction risk threatening more than one million species, protecting 30% of land and sea, eliminating billions of pounds of environmentally-damaging government subsidies and restoring degraded ecosystems.

A large worry regarding this has been the urgency of the negotiations as they have already delayed this for over two years with the conference originally aimed for the 15th-28th October 2020. This delay has drastically lowered the time nations need in implementing any plans to halt or reverse biodiversity decline by 2030.

**What difference will this make to my local wildlife?**

Yes, the conference is happening thousands of miles away and discussing global challenges, but decisions made will affect the wildlife you love right here in the UK.

By signing up to the targets, the UK Government will be making a commitment to protect nature on a national, regional and local level. This will influence everything from changing how we farm, working with nature to create better flood defences and improving water quality for our fish, frogs and water voles.

**What can I do?**

Although this is a global problem and the CBD is a true opportunity for nations to unite over a common cause, we as individuals can keep on rolling whilst they discuss the higher level ‘stuff’.

By thinking about our actions from growing flowering plants and shrubs at home, changing our diet or using different types of compost, together our actions can support nature’s recovery.

**For ten easy ways to do this click** [**here**](https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/10-easy-ways-to-help-nature-on-your-doorstep/)**.**