



## UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE COP15 FOOD DAY AT RIO CONVENTIONS PAVILION

TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS TO REVERSE  
BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ACHIEVE FOOD  
SECURITY AND NUTRITION FOR ALL BY 2030

KUNMING – MONTREAL

14 DECEMBER 2022

IN PARTNERSHIP  
WITH



United Nations  
Convention to Combat  
Desertification



The Food Day at Rio Convention Pavilion is a full day of events, discussion and showcasing of solutions at UNCBD COP15. By focusing on transforming food systems to reverse biodiversity loss and achieve food security and nutrition for all, this day will help countries, organisations and the science community develop stronger plans, actions for implementation to achieve the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) under the Convention on Biological Diversity. It will also explore cross-cutting policy responses spanning multiple global agreements.

**Transforming food systems to reverse biodiversity loss and achieve food security and nutrition for all by 2030** will focus on how to adopt food systems approaches, showcase concrete examples of implementation, encourage stakeholders to include food systems in the targets of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and will strengthen the overall linkage of food systems and biodiversity to the Rio Conventions on climate (UNFCCC) and desertification (UNCCD).

## WHY DO WE HAVE A FOOD DAY?

Biodiversity provides the foundation for development, economies, global security and human wellbeing, as is formulated in the Sustainable Development Goals. But it is being lost at an alarming rate and our food systems are at the root of the crisis. Food production is the biggest driver of environmental degradation and biodiversity loss: 70% of freshwater withdrawn, 30% of global GHG emissions, 80% of deforestation and the degradation of many other precious habitats such as wetlands and grasslands.

We will not be able to halt and reverse biodiversity loss unless we transform our food systems. To feed a growing population healthy and nutritious diets within planetary boundaries, we must halt conversion of nature, limit food production to existing farmland and keep climate change to no more than 1.5°C. **For this reason, actions to transform our food systems need to be integrated into the post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework (post-2020 GBF).**

Promoting coherence, complementarity and alignment among global processes will be crucial to achieving several interlinked global priorities. The post-2020 GBF offers a unique opportunity to shift towards sustainable food systems that benefit both people and the planet. This means emphasising actions to promote the sustainable use of biodiversity in human managed ecosystems to meet people's needs (e.g. food, fibre, fuel, tourism) and support conservation goals.

## WHAT IS HAPPENING ON FOOD DAY

This full-day event, co-organized by WWF, UNCCD, UNCBD, WBCSD, IFAD, Environmental Defense Fund FAIRR, CropTrust, TMG, CGIAR/Alliance of Bioversity and CIAT, Equilibrium Research, Plantlife and GAFF, and hosted at the Rio Convention Pavilion, will discuss the challenges and opportunities of improving soil health; increasing restoration of degraded soils; strengthening land tenure and food security; promoting agrobiodiversity; incorporating sustainable diets; empowering women, indigenous peoples, and youth; discussing financial issues, and encouraging businesses to be more responsible.

## SCHEDULE

## SPEAKERS\*

<p><b>9:00 – 10:00</b></p> <p><b>TRANSFORMING FOOD SYSTEMS TO REVERSE BIODIVERSITY LOSS - Building nexus between Biodiversity-Climate-Land-Food Systems</b></p> <p>The opening session of FOOD DAY at the Rio Convention pavilion will set the scene on the importance of transferring food systems to reverse biodiversity loss, halt climate change and provide enough healthy and nutritious food for all. High-level speakers will explain why food systems need to be included in the new GBF and indicate ways to integrate food systems in the overall new Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N.N. First Nation</li> <li>• Marco Lambertini, WWF</li> <li>• Elizabeth Mrema, UNCBD</li> <li>• Maria Helena Semedo, FAO</li> <li>• Inger Andersen, UNEP</li> <li>• Juan Lucas Restrepo, CGIAR/Alliance</li> <li>• Government Germany and Canada</li> <li>• Joao Campari, WWF</li> <li>• Angela Churie-Kallhauge, Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>• Pavan Sukhdev</li> </ul>
<p><b>10:00 – 10:50</b></p> <p><b>INCREASING THE AMBITION OF RESTORATION IN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK – The role of grasslands, savannahs and rangelands</b></p> <p>A discussion on the vital importance of our most important environmental asset: Soil. The session will discuss how to increase soil health and biodiversity, increase carbon storage, restore degraded lands and with them biodiversity and highlight the importance of the often overlooked grassland, rangeland and savannah ecosystems and discuss the importance to strengthen soil health and restoration ambition in the new Global Biodiversity Framework and emphasise the integration of protection, sustainable management and restoration of natural GSRs in National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Melissa Ho, WWF</li> <li>• Nigel Dudley, Equilibrium Research</li> <li>• Monica Kobayashi, UNCBD</li> <li>• Sasha Alexander, UNCCD</li> <li>• Maria Jose Villanueva, WWF</li> <li>• Carlo Fadda, CGIAR/Alliance</li> <li>• Ian Dunn, Plantlife</li> </ul>
<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p>	
<p><b>11:10 – 12:10</b></p> <p><b>PROTECTING LAND, PROTECTING FOOD – Indigenous and local women as stewards of land and food sovereignty</b></p> <p>While Indigenous and local women are the stewards of land and biodiversity they are also paying the highest costs of climate change and biodiversity loss, and their tenure rights are highly fragile. With strong tenure rights, gender-responsive governance and adequate financial resources indigenous and local women will continue to be champions of change for food sovereignty, health, nutrition, and biodiversity. This session will bring together women from different regions discussing their work and personal experience relating to and advocating for land tenure rights, biodiversity protection, restoration and sustainable use as well as food sovereignty.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• David Betge, TMG</li> <li>• Shruti Ajit, Women4Biodiversity</li> <li>• Nadine Azzu, IFAD</li> <li>• Marlene Elias, CGIAR/Alliance</li> <li>• Milka Chepkorir, ICCA Consortium</li> <li>• Cristiane Julião, Global Alliance of territorial communities</li> <li>• Sivaja Nair, ICSF</li> </ul>
<p><b>EARTH FRIENDLY NETWORKING LUNCH</b></p>	
<p><b>13:00 – 13:50</b></p> <p><b>TRANSFORMING AQUATIC AND TERRESTRIAL FOOD SYSTEMS TOGETHER IN THE GBF &amp; BEYOND</b></p> <p>The way we produce our food on land and in the water is driving biodiversity loss. Agriculture threatens 86% of species at risk of extinction, and fishing is the largest driver of biodiversity loss in marine ecosystems. This crisis will only be solved if food systems are profoundly transformed. This session will focus on opportunities to support resilient, agroecological and biodiversity-rich food systems from land to sea through the new Global Biodiversity Framework.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tom Grasso, Environmental Defense Fund</li> <li>• Georgina Catacora-Vargas (Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA)</li> <li>• Mariann Bassey, Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa (AFSA), Nigeria</li> <li>• Aaron Chacon, Coope Tarcols - Costa Rica</li> <li>• Agroecology Coalition</li> <li>• Janie Rioux, IFAD</li> <li>• Lauren Baker, GA</li> </ul>

<p><b>13:50 – 14:40</b></p> <p><b>FROM TARGETS TO ACTION - How to implement food-related targets of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework</b></p> <p>This session will highlight successful practices from around the world that use food systems as a pathway to support countries in meeting food-related targets of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. The audience and speakers will engage in a discussion on examples of work that have been successful in sustainably managing and conserving traditional varieties of crops, breeds and associated knowledge, that have the potential to be adapted and scaled in a variety of food systems around the world.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stefan Schmitz, Croptrust</li> <li>• Cristina Eghenter, WWF</li> <li>• Carlo Fadda, CGIAR/Alliance</li> <li>• Marieta Sakalian, UNEP</li> <li>• Juan Lucas Restrepo, CGIAR/Alliance</li> </ul>
<p><b>COFFEE BREAK</b></p>	
<p><b>15:00 – 15:50</b></p> <p><b>POWER OF THE CONSUMER - Scaling demand side actions to spur a radical transformation of our food system</b></p> <p>Halting and reversing biodiversity loss requires a food systems approach. This means that Humanity must shift towards more plant-based diets, radically reduce food loss and waste and adopt nature positive farming practices. However, these three actions are not mutually exclusive and the efficacy of each relies on the simultaneous deployment of the other two. Of these three actions, the consumer has the most power to affect dietary shifts and reductions in food loss and waste, both of which are necessary global enablers to allow widespread adoption of nature-positive farming without increasing the pressure to convert natural land. This side event will explore the tremendous Power of the Consumer and the enabling conditions necessary to radically scale this power.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linda Colette, Laval University</li> <li>• Lasse Brunn, UN Foundation</li> <li>• Philip Loring, Arrell Food Institute</li> <li>• Gim Huay, WEF</li> <li>• Diane Holdorf, WBCSD</li> </ul>
<p><b>15:50 – 16:40</b></p> <p><b>POWER OF FINANCE - Aligning agricultural subsidies with nature and biodiversity goals: Shifting the trillions towards a nature-positive economy</b></p> <p>According to the UN there are almost half a trillion of unsustainable agricultural subsidies globally, that are harmful to health and nature. Across sectors the world is spending at least \$1.8 trillion a year on subsidies that drive the destruction of ecosystems. The panel brings together experts from the world of finance and investment, academic, civil society groups and youth to discuss how we can drive change to repurpose agricultural subsidies to protect the ecosystems we rely on for food, livelihoods and for our economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Helena Wright, FAIRR</li> <li>• Tony Juniper, Natural England</li> <li>• David Bennell, TIFS</li> <li>• Alexander Burr, ESG Lead, Legal and General Investment Management</li> <li>• Sabrina Masinjila, African Centre for Biodiversity</li> <li>• Doreen Robinson, UNEP</li> <li>• Joao Campari, WWF</li> </ul>
<p><b>16:40 – 17:30</b></p> <p><b>POWER OF BUSINESS - From Ambition to Action: Scaling nature-positive food systems by 2030</b></p> <p>This session will be the opportunity to deep-dive into the role of agri-food companies in scaling nature-positive food systems through the implementation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. During this panel discussion, we will hear from business leaders, policy-makers and experts on the practical solutions to drive greater corporate accountability and halve nature loss across value chains by 2030.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brian Kernohan, Manulife</li> <li>• Fran Price, WWF</li> <li>• Anke Kwast, Yara</li> <li>• Gary Wade, Unilever Canada</li> <li>• Farmer representative</li> <li>• IFAD Country Representative</li> </ul>

*\* Speakers are subject to change*

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Food for thriving biodiversity](#)

[WWF COP 15 webpage](#)