



## What's at stake for African land conservation at the climate change and biodiversity Conference of Parties in 2022?

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A goal of the inaugural African Protected Areas Congress, held the summer 2022, was to equip delegates to send a strong message of commitment at upcoming international meetings.

The fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (CoP 15) will be held in Montreal in December. The 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP 27) of the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was run until November 18, 2022. The topic of the role of land conservation as part of the solution is a central topic at both meetings.

COP 27, held in Sharm El Sheikh Egypt, was the fourth time the meeting has been hosted in Africa. Deliberations centered on strategies for keeping global warming within 1.5 degrees centigrade and fulfilling the \$100 billion annual funding commitment the group's developed nations made to support climate-vulnerable developing countries. A fund set up by the developed nations called, loss and damage, is aimed towards rescuing and rebuilding vulnerable areas stricken by climate disaster. It was a key demand from developing nations for the last 30 years of climate talks. One of the key deliberations was to keep global warming within 1.5 degrees centigrade, although there was a commitment to limit temperature rise, the language was regarded as weak and there was no progress made on the outcome of CoP 26 12 months before in Glasgow, United Kingdom.

The meeting posed several learning opportunities, including product launches and reports on emerging initiatives. One of these was the Africa Carbon Markets Initiative, presented on November 8, 2022 which provides a roadmap for scaling Africa's voluntary carbon market. In this same vein, the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) has been highlighting the role of land conservation in providing climate change solutions, as documented in its publication [From the Ground Up: How land trusts and conservancies are providing solutions to climate change](#).

At CoP 15, in Montreal, Canada, delegates hope to make progress on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. In 2022, the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services released [The Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature](#), a summary complementing its 2019 Global Assessment Report. The two publications underscore the need for transformational change to safeguard life on earth.

The Diverse Values and Valuation of Nature Report plays a pivotal role in providing long-term solutions to biodiversity issues across the globe. It aims to shift the current predominant value system that over-emphasizes short-term individual and material gain to one that nurtures sustainability and community. When sustainability is placed at the heart of decision making, what it means to lead a high-quality life is redefined and society can better acknowledge the various ways people and nature can relate to each other. Societal goals such as justice and stewardship will need to be adopted to better align people and nature.

The reports also recognize the role of land conservation by presenting a variety of nature-based solutions, including:

- Reduced deforestation, strategies for restoring ecosystems, and agricultural practices that build soil organic matter;
- Better use of pollinators and natural enemies of pests to promote agricultural biodiversity and simultaneously increase yields and reduce chemical use;
- Protecting coral reefs and mangroves to reduce the impact of extreme weather events on coastal areas; and
- Using urban green spaces to improve mental and physical health.

Several African ILCN partners are attending CoP 15 and CoP 27. Some Non-Governmental Organization partners will represent Kenya and Liberia on government delegations. If you will be in Montreal, Canada, for CoP 15 in December and would like to connect with the ILCN team, please reach out to [makiragu.mwangi@earthpositiveconsulting.com](mailto:makiragu.mwangi@earthpositiveconsulting.com)