

COP17

Positions and Recommendations from Danish Civil Society



**TAKING ACTION
FOR NATURE**

19 - 30 OCTOBER 2026



Danish 92 Group

Forum for Sustainable Development



DANISH 92 GROUP OCTOBER 2026

COP17 and Denmark's responsibilities

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth – and it is disappearing faster now than at any other time in human history. COP17 will conduct the first midterm global review of collective progress under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). It will serve as a major test and benchmark of whether countries are actually complying with the historic agreement reached at COP15, to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030 and to shift focus from global commitments to measurable national action.

Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, Denmark has committed to contributing to the achievement of the global targets set out in the Framework, including:

- **Biodiversity conservation and restoration:** By 2030, at least 30% of terrestrial and marine areas must be effectively conserved and managed through protected areas and other effective conservation measures. In addition, at least 30% of degraded terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems must be under effective restoration.
- **National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP):** Denmark must continuously develop, update, implement and report on its NBSAP in accordance with the global biodiversity targets.
- **Financial commitments and support:** Denmark must identify and reform incentives and subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity, in order to meet the global target of reducing or reorienting such subsidies by at least USD 500 billion annually. As a high-income country, Denmark must also contribute to the financing of biodiversity initiatives in developing countries.
- **Rights:** Denmark must contribute to a rights-based implementation of the KMGBF, with due respect for human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Denmark is failing to meet international obligations

Denmark has not submitted the 7th National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. The Danish National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) must be updated to ensure it is in line with the commitments under the KMGBF.

Denmark must fulfil its obligations regarding biodiversity action that contributes to meeting the targets of the KMGBF agreement, with a level of ambition commensurate with the scale of the increasing challenge.

Recommendations

- Denmark must submit the 7th National Report, assessing the progress made in implementing the KMGBF.
- Denmark must update its NBSAP to a meaningful and concrete action plan.
- Denmark must ensure that the commitments under the agreement are enshrined in Danish legislation, including the Biodiversity Act, which reaffirms Denmark's international obligations.
- Denmark should prioritise ministerial participation at COP17 and actively contribute to maintaining a high level of ambition in the KMGBF.
- Denmark must increase funding for biodiversity and human rights, in accordance with KMGBF Target 19a.

COP17

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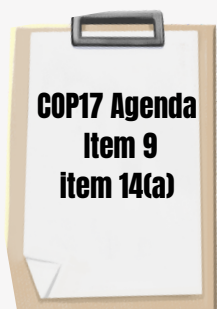


Close the implementation gap

COP17 must mark a decisive shift from promises to action.

Based on the Global Review, the gap between targets and implementation must be identified and closed. The possibility of halting and reversing biodiversity loss by 2030 depends on moving from words to action. This gap is due mainly to insufficient political prioritisation, inadequate data and weak national reporting. Biodiversity policy must be mainstreamed and integrated across sectors to drive implementation forward, as many of the obstacles lie outside the nature and environment sectors.

Recommendations



- The Global Review should be used to identify concrete, time-bound and adequately resourced measures to close the implementation gap.
- Denmark should participate in the government-led *Positive Tipping Point Alliance* to accelerate the implementation of the KMGBF objectives.
- Biodiversity must be an integral part of policy, planning, regulation, public funding and private financial decisions across sectors, including food, agriculture, infrastructure and finance.
- Denmark must allocate resources from development aid to initiatives focusing on biodiversity and human rights.



Nature must be protected

COP17 Agenda
Item 17: (b),(c)
Item 18: (b), (c)

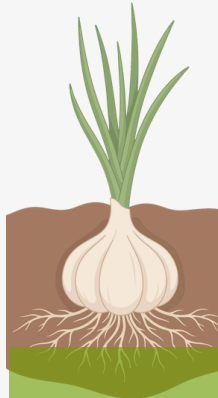
The main cause of biodiversity loss is habitat destruction, such as deforestation and bottom trawling. COP17 should ensure that the integrity, connectivity and resilience of all ecosystems are maintained, strengthened or restored. An evidence-based *One Health* approach, which recognises the interdependence between the health of humans, animals, plants and ecosystems, must be integrated into biodiversity and climate planning. Healthy wildlife populations are essential for biodiversity and must be integrated into the protection, conservation, restoration and management of ecosystems. The rights of Indigenous Peoples must be respected and protected in nature conservation measures.



Recommendations

- Through participation in the *Positive Tipping Point Alliance*, Denmark must take the lead on issues such as marine biodiversity and deforestation- and conversion-free value chains.
- Denmark must support the acceleration of protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems, including forests, wetlands and grasslands, with ecological integrity, connectivity and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Implementation must be accelerated for under-prioritised marine, coastal and island ecosystems, with marine monitoring and management systems that include animal welfare as well as harmful practices, and the impacts of aquaculture and underwater noise.
- The UN's global marine and biodiversity treaty for the high seas, *Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction*, must be implemented, with environmental impact assessments and management tools that protect marine animals.

COP17 Agenda
Item 18 (d)



Food systems must preserve biodiversity

Agriculture is a major cause of ecosystem destruction and pressure on biodiversity and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples. Livestock production requires the most space and the most resources. It pollutes ecosystems and is often carried out with poor animal welfare standards. The pressure exerted by agriculture on biodiversity concerns our entire food system: agriculture, food production and consumption. Food systems must be transformed to be far more plant-based and to adopt production methods that do not harm biodiversity.

Recommendations

Denmark must insist on a definition of agriculture and biodiversity that covers more than soil biodiversity and ensures that agriculture does not destroy ecosystems. This must be achieved by:

- Strengthening relevant provisions so that governments commit to identifying, eliminating, phasing out or reforming incentives and subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity, in accordance with KMGBF Target 18.
- Committing countries to ensuring that all agricultural supply chains are free from deforestation, land conversion and human rights violations, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Introducing cross-sectoral coordination between agriculture, the environment and health, in line with approaches such as *One Health* and *Planetary Health*.
- Transforming food systems so they contribute to biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and animal welfare.
- Promoting a more plant-based diet, in line with the findings of the 2025 EAT-Lancet report, to alleviate the pressure exerted by agriculture on nature (<https://eatforum.org/eat-lancet>).

Participation must increase

The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) emphasises that successful implementation depends on the involvement of all societal stakeholders. This must include the knowledge and rights of local communities, the rights of women and girls, and the knowledge and specific rights of Indigenous Peoples (*whole-of-society approach*).

At present, there is only limited social ownership of the implementation process. Community-Based Monitoring (CBM) and Citizen Science are tools that can ensure the inclusion of unique local knowledge and contribute to KMGBF Targets 21–23 on participation and equity.



**COP17 Agenda
Item 9(b)
Item 15**

Recommendations

- CBM and Citizen Science must be recognised in the COP17 decision on monitoring and incorporated into new national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs).
- The framework's *Whole of Society Approach* must be promoted to ensure ownership by civil society and non-state actors.
- Denmark must work towards an ambitious implementation of the KMGBF's Gender Plan of Action.
- Indigenous Peoples must be guaranteed meaningful engagement with respect for their rights, including the right to land, territories, resources and knowledge.

The rights of Indigenous Peoples must be safeguarded

The specific rights of Indigenous Peoples must be respected and protected in the implementation of the KMGBF. The knowledge and territorial management of Indigenous Peoples are essential to achieving the global biodiversity targets, provided their rights are respected. The implementation of KMGBF Targets 2 and 3 must strengthen – not undermine – the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including the right to land, territories, resources and knowledge, as well as leadership and equal participation.

Recommendations



**COP17 Agenda
Item 10**

- Denmark must work towards the ambitious implementation of the programme of work under Article 8(j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which recognises the territories of Indigenous Peoples as a distinct contribution to the implementation of Targets 2 and 3.
- The rights of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories, resources and knowledge must be safeguarded, as must their own conservation and restoration efforts and direct access to funding.
- Denmark must work to uphold Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a fundamental principle when establishing, expanding or modifying protected areas that affect Indigenous Peoples' lands and territories, and oppose any weakening of the language on rights in all COP17 decisions.
- Denmark must put pressure on countries that continue to violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples, including through top-down conservation initiatives and the criminalisation and persecution of Indigenous human rights defenders.

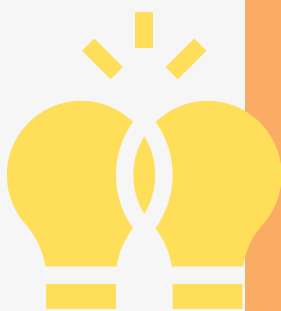


Funding must be allocated

It is absolutely essential to ensure adequate funding for implementation and to put a stop to investments and incentives that have a detrimental impact on biodiversity. Furthermore, it makes good geopolitical sense to invest in the Global South. COP17 must therefore close the funding gap and ensure the phasing out of subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity. Denmark should play a key role.

Recommendations

- Developed countries must present an explicit plan for achieving KMGBF Target 19a: broadening the group of donors, improving access to funding for Indigenous Peoples as well as local communities, and strengthening the link between climate and nature financing.
- Denmark is currently in a transformation process towards a greener agricultural sector and must take the lead in *Friends of Target 18*; a coalition of governments and stakeholders with the aim of phasing out and reforming harmful subsidies.
- Denmark must urge the EU to accelerate the identification, elimination or reform of harmful subsidies and incentives, including the development of methodologies and plans.
- Denmark must carry out a national analysis mapping Danish incentives and subsidies that have a detrimental impact on biodiversity and human rights, including the rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- Denmark must redirect funding away from intensive livestock production, oil extraction and other harmful practices.



Synergies between climate and biodiversity must be enhanced

The climate and biodiversity crises must be tackled together, with a much stronger link between international biodiversity and climate processes. The protection and restoration of natural ecosystems, including wild animal populations, and respect for the rights of Indigenous Peoples, are crucial to preserving the Earth's biodiversity and climate, and to building resilient societies. Through COP17, biodiversity and ecosystems must be integrated into international climate action and included on the agenda of the UNFCCC COP31.

Recommendations

- At COP17, Denmark must work towards a clear decision under Item 18(a) that strengthens concrete cooperation and policy coherence between the CBD and the UNFCCC, including by supporting the *Multilevel Roadmap for Cooperation Across the Rio Conventions* initiative.
- Denmark must actively carry forward the outcomes and ambitions of COP17 to COP31, and contribute to ensuring that nature, biodiversity and ecosystems are placed at the centre of the climate negotiations.
- This synergy must be reflected in Denmark's international profile and activities surrounding the two COPs, so that specific messages and priorities from COP17 are carried forward to COP31.
- Denmark must work to ensure that the protection and restoration of biodiversity-rich ecosystems, including wild animal populations, are systematically integrated into climate action and national climate and biodiversity plans – with strong safeguards for biodiversity, human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples – and, in this context, endorse the *Wildlife for Climate Declaration*, which is being launched at COP31 on the initiative of African countries.

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The Danish 92 Group
Forum for Sustainable Development



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- Danish Society for Nature Conservation
- Danish Vegetarian Association
- Danish International Human Settlement Service
- Danmission
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- Danish United Nations Association
- Global Action
- Greenpeace Denmark
- IWGIA
- KULU
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The Danish 92 Group

Forum for Sustainable Development

The 92 Group – Forum for Sustainable Development – is a network of 28 Danish civil society organisations that work across sectoral interests to promote sustainable development, both in Denmark and globally, with a focus on biodiversity, climate, human rights, responsible business conduct and sustainable value chains.

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