



The World and its Cities Living in Harmony with Nature: Reflections on the United Nations COP15 and Leading with Biodiversity

Report by Peter Brastow
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Introduction

In December 2022, I joined thousands of delegates from 196 countries in Montréal, Canada, to participate in the United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP 15). San Francisco was specifically invited to contribute to the 7th Summit on Subnational Governments and Cities. The following report presents highlights from the COP, the Summit, and a C40 Cities Workshop, to which San Francisco was also invited to present. The report includes a short debrief and some personal reflections on the experience and some thoughts on how San Francisco can continue to be a leader in urban biodiversity conservation, restoration, and stewardship.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity and the Conference of the Parties

The [United Nations](#) Convention on Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)) was signed by 150 countries (parties) at the [1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro](#). President Clinton signed on the United States in 1993, but the US Senate never ratified the treaty. The CBD entered into force on December 29, 1993, and has three main objectives:

1. The conservation of biological diversity.
2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity.
3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.¹

From December 8-19, 2022, 196 parties to the Convention met in Montréal, Québec, Canada for [COP15](#). Reportedly between 12,000 and 20,000 delegates attended the 15th [UN Biodiversity Conference](#), which took place at the [Palais de Congrès](#) in downtown Montréal. The United States attended as an observer since it is not a formal party to the Convention.

The major purpose of the conference, whose motto was an “ecological civilization – building a shared future for all life on Earth,” was to achieve consensus on the text of the Global Biodiversity Framework ([GBF](#)), which provides a strategic vision and a global roadmap for the conservation,

¹ The [CBD](#) meets every two years as the Conference of the Parties ([COP](#)). COP15 was delayed from 2020 due to the global pandemic.

protection, restoration and sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems for the next decade.

The 196 parties, influenced by thousands of delegates, needed to agree on the bold mission, by 2030, “to take urgent action to halt and reverse biodiversity loss to put nature on a path to recovery for the benefit of people and planet.” The GBF has [four overarching goals](#) – which mirror the objectives of the CBD – and a comprehensive set of [23 global biodiversity targets](#). The goal to conserve and restore 30% of the world’s lands and waters by 2030 (“30X30”) was a central feature of COP15. The role of the world’s Indigenous Peoples in the negotiations and the outcomes was a major theme and was likely bolstered by the strong presence of North American Indigenous leadership, especially from Canada.

At [COP10](#) in Nagoya, Japan, parties created the [2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity](#), which included a vision of [living in harmony with nature](#) as well as the [20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets](#). According to the 5th edition of the [Global Biodiversity Outlook](#), none of the Aichi targets were met. Since the landmark [IPBES report](#) warned, among other dire statistics, that 1 million species are at risk of extinction before the end of the century, COP15 took on extra significance with [many saying](#) that it needed to be the “Paris Moment” for biodiversity.

7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities – Taking Action for Biodiversity

For decades, the UN, the CBD, and the global community have recognized the important role of [subnational governments](#), cities, and other local authorities in the achievement of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity (which is mirrored by the same acknowledgement within the Climate COP). At COP15, this culminated in a first ever pavilion at a CBD COP dedicated to subnational governments and cities and a milestone [7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities](#), hosting 237 cities from 69 countries among a Summit registration of 1200 delegates. The Summit was located on site at the Palais de Congrès in the larger mega-pavilion known as [Place Québec](#).

The 7th Summit was co-hosted by [ICLEI](#) with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and [Regions4](#), along with the host Government of Québec and the City of Montréal, with the support and engagement of the Province of Yunnan and the City of Kunming.² Montréal and Québec, and ICLEI’s [Cities Biodiversity Center](#), invited [San Francisco](#) to participate in the Summit and Mayor Breed to be an official high-level speaker. Mayor Breed did not attend the COP, but 80 municipal and other subnational leaders from all over the world, including dozens of mayors, governors, and other officials, were featured speakers at the Summit.

In 2020, ICLEI invited San Francisco to be part of [CitiesWithNature](#), the official platform for cities to articulate their role and commitment to implementing the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. Just before the COP, San Francisco joined CitiesWithNature, and at the 7th Summit, received an

² ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) is the official global NGO partner to the UN for biodiversity at the subnational level.

official certificate, recognizing the city's participation in CitiesWithNature, activated by its attendance and representation at COP15.

"At this historic 7th Summit, the local and subnational government constituency committed to stepping up urgency and action to address the biodiversity crisis and support implementation of the new post-2020 global biodiversity framework (GBF), with an [urgent call](#) to Parties to raise ambition, strengthen commitment to multilevel integration, and scale up support to enable protection of biodiversity and ecosystem restoration. It was emphasized that there is a clear need for direct financing for local and subnational governments to implement local, context-specific solutions, and scale up and accelerate actions. The key outcomes of the 7th Summit were presented to the CBD COP15 [High Level Segment](#)" (ICLEI [online brief](#) on the 7th Summit).

Observations and statements made at the Summit include (among others):

- Subnational governments and cities are on the frontline of efforts to protect biodiversity. They have a critical role to play in achieving the targets of the new global biodiversity framework.
- The gaps in national leadership have been filled by subnational governments.
- Investing in nature brings returns across all domains, including livelihoods and job creation.
- No city or region can afford to take nature for granted nor make any decision that is not nature positive.
- We are part of nature and what we do to nature, we do directly to ourselves.

Highlights from North American cities:

- Mexico City has a green infrastructure plan, and the city was well represented at COP15.
- Monterrey was the first city in Mexico to declare a Climate Emergency, to which they are responding with building out an urban park system and sustainable corridors.
- Canada has a goal of creating 15 urban national parks in the next few years, working with First Nations and local community stakeholders.
- Los Angeles adapted the Singapore Biodiversity Index, convening dozens of municipal and community stakeholders as well as a scientific advisory panel, to create the [Los Angeles Biodiversity Index](#) (type "biodiversity" in the search) and publish a 2022 Baseline Report.

The California Delegation and the California Global Biodiversity Working Group

A highlight of COP15 was the attendance of a substantial [California delegation](#), spearheaded by Rosalind Helfand of [PAJE Consulting](#), and organized as the [California Global Biodiversity Working Group](#). COP15 was the first time that a US state was an official observer to the COP, and California was the only US state officially represented. The 50-person delegation was led by Secretary of the [California Natural Resources Agency \(CNRA\)](#), Wade Crowfoot (formerly of San Francisco City Hall), along with two of his deputies, Jennifer Norris and Jenn Eckerle (Biodiversity and Habitat and Ocean

Protection Council, respectively).³ [California Environmental Voters](#) organized a robust legislative delegation, including seven elected officials, namely State Senators Weiner (San Francisco), Allen, and Gonzalez as well as State Assemblymembers Ting (San Francisco), Kaira, Stern and Friedman (Glendale, and legislative lead on California's COP participation).

The California delegation participated in many different events, meetings and important announcements, including a press conference with the Province of Québec when Secretary Crowfoot and Québec's representative [signed a bilateral agreement](#) to collaborate on biodiversity conservation, climate action, and the implementation 30X30. California received special recognition from ICLEI as a key leader and early adopter of [RegionsWithNature](#). California joined the [High Ambition Coalition](#) made a splash at COP15, playing a serious behind-the-scenes role in various high-level meetings to influence the ongoing negotiations.⁴ CNRA organized a California Biodiversity Roundtable, across the street from the COP, at which the delegates from San Francisco and Los Angeles were invited to participate and make comments about urban biodiversity and [30X30](#).

COP15 Outcomes and Agreement⁵

In the early hours of December 19, 2022, 196 nations agreed on the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#) ([PDF](#) version). After 12 years of nations failing to achieve the Aichi targets, four years of negotiations toward the [post-2020](#) Global Biodiversity Framework, and a seven-hour long final plenary, the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (minus the [United States](#)) agreed on [four goals and 23 targets](#) to achieve the 2030 mission of halting and reversing global biodiversity loss and the 2050 vision of a world living in harmony with nature.

Negotiations among the parties were dynamic and tense until the Chair struck the final gavel. Immediately thereafter, the negotiator from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, representing mega-diverse nations of the Global South, demanded a new fund for biodiversity, separate from the existing UN fund, the global environment facility ([GEF](#)).

The final GBF was [heralded](#) as a landmark agreement for global biodiversity conservation, including the prominent and celebrated goal of 30X30, articulated in Targets 2 (restoration) and 3 (conservation and management). **Target 12** of the GBF articulates the importance of cities and urban areas in the implementation of the world's biodiversity mission and its goals and targets:

Significantly increase the area and quality and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and

³ California's Department of Natural Resources is on the cutting edge of comprehending, promoting, and resourcing nature-based climate action as evidenced by their core [priorities and initiatives](#).

⁴ The California Native Plant Society published a [reflection on the UN Biodiversity Conference](#), which outlined some important and relevant take-aways and included a *Bringing It Home* call to action to Californians.

⁵ The UN Environment Program produces a *Biodiversity Beat*, which issued a [video report](#) on the COP15 outcomes from Montreal on the Winter Solstice. The monumental challenge of the negotiations throughout the meeting, the many controversies and tough issues, and ultimately the success of the agreement were [widely reported](#) in the [national](#) and [international](#) media.

sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

As evidenced by Target 12, the global community broadly recognizes the role of cities, both within and beyond, in global nature conservation. The invitation from ICLEI, Montreal, and Québec to San Francisco to attend COP15 and participate in the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities strongly demonstrates how the city's urban nature and ecological restoration and stewardship work fits into the global biodiversity conservation context. As a function of the city's remaining biodiversity, its legacy of restoration and stewardship, and its recently established policy objectives, among the 23 targets in the GBF, no fewer than 17 have direct application to urban biodiversity work in San Francisco.

COP15 Debrief and Reflections⁶

The 12-day process of COP15 was fascinating, both for witnessing how nations negotiate global decisions and for how slow and tedious the process can be. During negotiations, nations would form alliances to collaborate on promulgating their different positions or perspectives, e.g., the tropical mega-diverse nations. Sitting through the conversations about specific proposed new text or deletions (the brackets) was involved dozens of delegates commenting on one sentence or word change. The complexity of the documents catalog on the CBD website is astounding, difficult to navigate, and requires an orientation from someone who is already familiar with the process and procedures of UN negotiations. Thankfully, the CBD released a [press release](#) that detailed the final text of the GBF, and this document does not have a lot of arcane background or references, only a brief introduction and the goals and targets.

Major themes or issues that dominated the negotiations included financing and funding, corporate disclosure, and the relationship between developed and developing nations, poverty and justice, the Global South and North, and, of course, implementation. These issues mirror those of the climate COP and will obviously be crucial to the success of nations fulfilling the agreement. Interesting finance models included one whereby the lender provides a substantial discount for any project that is positive for biodiversity, e.g., an 80% discount rate for a restoration project or a 100% discount for a straight preservation project.

Indigenous Peoples and the COP

Among the off-site events at COP15 was the [Indigenous Village](#), presented by the Indigenous Leadership Initiative, which was located next to Old Montréal and the waterfront. The Indigenous Village presented three days of programming inside a long house as well as other educational and spiritual activities. On the third day of the Village, Michelle Barton of Los Angeles and Peter Brastow

⁶ Special thanks to *Michelle Barton* of the Los Angeles Department of Sanitation and Environment, whose diligent and detailed notes from COP15 significantly helped enrich the content for this report.

of San Francisco attended – along with the California leadership – a presentation by the Haida Nation in the far west of Canada. The Haida elder recounted the history of his people, oppression, and the Nation’s work to turn the tide on the destruction of their land and community. Immediately afterward, Secretary Crowfoot was invited to make a few comments; he did so in a way that painted California in the best possible light. He projected humility in describing California’s efforts to collaborate with California Indian Tribes – that it was a long time coming and that we have a long way to go – but crucially that the State and its partners value and respect Indigenous [Traditional Ecological Knowledge](#) and are engaged in a process of learning and partnership.

Place Québec hosted an all-day Indigenous Peoples forum on December 14. The IPLC group was pushing for a much larger role of the world’s Indigenous Peoples in the COP and in global nature conservation.⁷ There was very strong criticism of the 30x30 target among some indigenous leaders. Many delegates viewed 30X30 as problematic, as it requires securing more land for preservation, thus having the potential to displace Indigenous Peoples from sacred and/or ancestral lands. During the forum, one gentleman from Africa proclaimed, “Conservation is a threat to us.”⁸ There was real fear at the COP that the 30X30 conservation target could lead to a repeat of past harms to Indigenous Peoples. Ultimately, for acknowledging, recognizing, and situating the role and importance of Indigenous sovereignty, knowledge and traditions, the Global Biodiversity Framework was an unprecedented success. Eight of the 23 Targets included references to Indigenous Peoples, whereas only two did so in the Aichi Targets.

There was also criticism from some advocates that 30X30 is not enough for long-term global ecological sustainability. In fact, 50% has been urged by advocates and scientists since the [2009 World Wilderness Congress](#), and E.O. Wilson created the [Half-Earth Project](#) to promote the idea, with strong scientific foundations. At a panel discussion sponsored by the Wild Foundation, one scientist presented a sophisticated GIS analysis that demonstrated that 17% of international lands and waters are already preserved and an additional 21% are managed by Indigenous Peoples, and thus, the world is already past 30%.

C40 Cities Urban Nature Accelerator Workshop

In 2021, San Francisco, along with Los Angeles and 36 other C40 cities, signed on to the C40 Urban Nature Declaration, now known as the [Urban Nature Accelerator](#). C40 has challenged the signatory cities “to establish ambitious nature targets to achieve climate resilience and create an agenda for people and nature to support one another.” The commitment is to have 30% quality (biodiverse and climate-resilient) green spaces by 2030, and so the Urban Nature Accelerator is essentially a 30X30 target for the world’s cities.

In November 2022, C40 contacted the signatories to the Accelerator and invited them to travel to COP15 to participate in a half-day workshop focused on sharing and learning about nature conservation and connection efforts among the 38 cities. Eight cities responded (C40 generously

⁷ In CBD parlance, Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) is the term for the official Observer or Major Group that participates in the COPs.

⁸ Reportedly, 30,000 Indigenous People were arrested in Nepal for trespassing on National Park land.

offered financial support for travel and lodging). San Francisco and Los Angeles learned from Paris, Tokyo, Freetown, Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paolo, Toronto and Montréal, cities which are all doing innovative work to connect their citizens to nature and to resource biodiversity conservation. The work of the two Canadian cities in attendance was particularly inspiring as they are deploying robust urban nature policies and programs. Toronto has strong incentives for private green space maintenance as part of developing the [Toronto Green Standard](#). Montréal has a community participatory budget program and devotes 10-15% of its capital budget to adaptation, most of which is devoted to greening and natural infrastructure – \$181 million for 2023.

The C40 workshop, which took place at [Montréal's temporary City Hall](#), was a welcome change of pace from the sometimes overwhelming UN Conference (located at the Palais de Congrès convention hall). All eight cities sat together around a U-shaped set of tables for an intimate interchange of ideas and practices. C40 did a fine job organizing the workshop, including providing a delicious vegetarian lunch!

Peter's Personal Experience

COP15 was without a doubt the most exciting conference I have ever experienced. While the World Wilderness Congress ([WILD10](#)) in Salamanca in 2013 was also spectacular and stimulating and network-creating, COP15 was an official UN Environment Conference, and thus, had representation from every single country on the planet. To join thousands of people who are generally like-minded and fighting for the same goals and vision of reestablishing our relationship with nature, was energizing and awe-inspiring. The fact that the urgency of the biodiversity crisis is unprecedented and growing exponentially added a frenetic energy to the experience. Of course, the ongoing broadcasting of the World Cup from Doha contributed to the atmosphere. Finally, the 7th Summit for Subnational Governments and Cities provided an incredible elixir that truly made me feel like we are part of a global urban biodiversity movement.

In addition to the 7th Summit, there were countless other tracks, series, events, panels, and workshops occurring simultaneously. There were also the UN negotiations among 196 countries on the Global Biodiversity Framework and many other documents. I attended five completely different side events off-site from the Palais de Congrès, where the negotiations and most of the official Associated Events occurred.

Among the off-site events/pavilions I attended was the [Indigenous Village](#), mentioned above. I managed to arrive before 9:00 A.M. on Friday and stood by the fire to catch the tail end of the circular opening ceremony for the three-day event within the biodiversity conference. I stayed for the morning's opening session, and felt very comfortable in that setting; it provided a clear perspective and foundation for the unfolding COP15 just up the street. It was a privilege to sit among First Nations and other Indigenous Peoples in the long house. The MC was a native woman who spoke fluent English, French and Spanish. At one point, a father and son team took the stage, burned sage, sang, smoked a tobacco pipe, and played a steady drumbeat, helping to situate the community to the place. I had this sudden sensation that, sure enough, we were all sitting on unceded land, which is the case across North America.

Bringing it Home to San Francisco

The City's Cultural Ecology and Ecological Restoration Movement

San Francisco's participation at the UN Biodiversity Conference occurred in the same year as the 30-year anniversary of the [Wild in the City](#) map. This seminal and enduring local ecological education tool celebrates the city's biodiversity, as well as the late twentieth century ecological restoration movement. The Wild in the City map also illustrated the ancient wild landscape, or *Yelamu*, as a place of Native American heritage and ecological stewardship, and thus symbolized the pre-industrial legacy of a harmony of nature and culture, to which the San Francisco movement and the Global Biodiversity Framework both aspire. The City of San Francisco was developed on unceded land of the Ramaytush Ohlone People. Now, in the twenty-first century, the City has finally begun to partner with the American Indian community, including the [Association of Ramaytush Ohlone](#), as part of restoring a healthier relationship between people and nature where they live.

For a place on Earth that is over 95% built out, San Francisco still harbors astounding [biological diversity](#). If not for the local grassroots environmental movement, the seeds of which were sown in the 1980s, the city's native habitats, plants and animals would be significantly diminished. This more than 30-year campaign of community-based stewardship was initiated by the Yerba Buena Chapter of the California Native Plant Society (CNPS) and has propagated across multiple agencies and jurisdictions and spawned the creation of many local NGOs and CBOs that still thrive and collaborate today. This special cultural ecological legacy emerged, succeeded, and has endured due to unwavering grassroots energy and activism and decades of nature conservation advocacy. Despite a lack of centralized direction, the local ecological stewardship movement has always been grounded in principles of environmental justice – across agencies and local non-profits – the most recent manifestation of which has been the inter-organizational collective impact initiative [San Francisco Children and Nature](#).

Natural Resources Programs and Biodiversity Policies

The city's ancient and post-modern cultural ecological history is the backdrop for the emergence of even more recent [policies and programs](#) related to local biodiversity. In the 1990s, at the urging of CNPS, the National Park Service/Presidio Trust and then the Recreation and Parks Department (RPD) created natural resources stewardship programs. The City passed a Sustainability Plan that contained a robust Biodiversity Chapter. Over the ensuing years, several City Departments have included local nature provisions in their environmental plans, including most significantly RPD's Significant Natural Resource Areas Management Plan (SNRAMP). In 2014 the City updated the Recreation and Open Space Element of its General Plan with a Biodiversity Objective.

Building on these and other mentions of local nature in various plans (e.g., the Urban Forest Master Plan), the Commission on the Environment passed a biodiversity resolution in 2017, which articulated [five broad goals](#) for biodiversity conservation and connecting people to nature in the city. The San Francisco Board of Supervisors followed in 2018 with a biodiversity resolution known as the San Francisco Biodiversity Policy, which articulated a citywide Biodiverse City Vision and established

“local biodiversity as a citywide priority, with a framework for interagency collaboration for nature-based initiatives.”⁹ Finally, in December 2021, the City published its Paris-compliant [Climate Action Plan](#), which includes a robust Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of 32 nature-based solutions that marry equitable community greening and ecosystem restoration with local climate resilience.

International Urban Biodiversity Networks

After the Environment Department hired the City’s Biodiversity Coordinator in 2012, spurred by a couple of committed funders, San Francisco began to participate in [international](#) urban biodiversity networks and convenings. In 2013, San Francisco presented at the Wild Cities workshop at the [World Wilderness Congress](#) (WILD10) and at the [Biophilic Cities](#) launch at the University of Virginia. As discussed above, San Francisco signed onto C40’s Urban Nature Accelerator in 2021, and just before attending COP15, San Francisco registered with [CitiesWithNature](#).¹⁰ The Mayor of Montréal, Valerie Plante, has challenged cities to sign on to the [Montréal Pledge](#) to take 15 actions for biodiversity. Before COP15, 47 cities signed on, including Los Angeles. San Francisco should join the global community and follow suit.

San Francisco has cultivated a reputation as a city that has accomplished much in the realm of biodiversity conservation. Participation in these networks is important, both to continue to share what San Francisco has to offer, and to learn from other cities who are doing innovative, often more advanced work for their local nature and biodiversity.¹¹ The [National Park City Foundation](#) presented at the 7th Summit about their bold initiative to create National Park Cities all over the world. London began this movement, followed by Adelaide, and more are on the way. At COP15, the Foundation engaged San Francisco about becoming a National Park City.

Monitoring and Accountability

One of the common threads through all these international networking efforts is a focus on tracking and monitoring, including the [IUCN Urban Nature Index](#) and the [Singapore Biodiversity Index](#). As noted above, Los Angeles created the Los Angeles Biodiversity Index and published a baseline report. Several years ago, San Francisco worked with the Presidio Trust, the [California Academy of Sciences](#) and other North American cities to devise an ecological health monitoring framework but has never implemented the program. San Francisco needs to deploy a robust ecological monitoring program, based on diverse targets for habitats and species, as well as for 30X30, to implement the C40 Urban Nature Accelerator and the GBF.

Citywide Biodiversity Plan/Strategy

⁹ The Biodiversity Interagency Working Group submitted a detailed [report](#) that outlined existing resources, ongoing collaborative projects, goals and opportunities as well as the inevitable challenges, including needing sufficient funding to implement our biodiverse city vision.

¹⁰ ICLEI’s (see above) CitiesWithNature Action Platform is recognized by the CBD in the [draft Plan of Action on Subnational Governments, Cities and Other Local Authorities for Biodiversity](#) (2021- 2030) as the place where cities will monitor and report on their voluntary commitments to national and global biodiversity targets.

¹¹ International intercity partnerships abound, including one between Los Angeles and Freetown, Sierra Leone, in which Los Angeles has issued a municipal bond for nature-based solutions projects in Freetown.

Cross-referencing the GBF targets with the 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Healthy Ecosystems Chapter (HE) strategies and actions will help determine if there are any gaps in the city's biodiversity policy objectives. Certainly San Francisco needs – like so many other cities have – a citywide biodiversity strategy and action plan (CAP HE 3-5), which would be the blueprint for how the city can implement the CAP carbon sequestration and biodiversity actions on the ground. The latter would build upon and complement Recreation and Parks' SNRAMP and the phenomenal natural resources planning and implementation work of the Presidio Trust and the National Park Service. A San Francisco Biodiversity Atlas/Plan/Strategy would articulate specific local habitat and ecosystems targets and would finally provide a comprehensive, citywide roadmap for how and where to implement ecological restoration and stewardship priorities across the city.

Lead with Biodiversity

The [Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan](#) from the United Nations Climate Conference, COP27, declared, “the urgent need to address, in a comprehensive and synergistic manner, the interlinked global crises of climate change and biodiversity loss in the broader context of achieving the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), as well as the vital importance of protecting, conserving, restoring and sustainably using nature and ecosystems for effective and sustainable climate action.”

Among the 17 of the 23 Global Biodiversity Framework targets that apply to San Francisco, several speak to the need for nature-and ecosystem-based solutions for implementing global climate action. The Healthy Ecosystems Chapter of San Francisco's Climate Action Plan articulates the critical, fundamental, and obvious connection between the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis. The Chapter articulates seven bold strategies and 32 actions for implementing a combined vision of optimizing local and regional carbon sequestration and ambitious ecological restoration goals for a biodiverse city.

The world, including [California](#) and the [United States](#), has finally come around to seeing that the biodiversity crisis and the climate crisis are inextricably linked. When we are doing what we need to do to protect the world's species, natural habitats and ecosystems, we are also working to stem global climate chaos. In Jessica Wolfrum's article in the [San Francisco Examiner](#), Dr. Rebecca Johnson expressed it simply: “solving for climate change and protecting and preserving biodiversity are the same thing.”

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