



Welcome Speech by Dr. Philipp Harmer, President of the CIC
69th General Assembly
Opening Ceremony

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Held in Montreal over two weeks in December, 2022 representatives of 188 governments on site finalised and approved measures to stop the ongoing loss of biodiversity. This so-called **Global Biodiversity Framework** was adopted at this conference by the **UN Convention on Biological Diversity**.

The **Global Biodiversity Framework** includes 4 goals and 23 targets to be achieved by 2030 to support its vision that “by 2050 biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used”.

Those 188 government representatives were surrounded by several thousand lobbyists and NGOs. On the surface all united by the goal “to save the world”. However, everyone campaigned for a different way to do so.

As said, 4 goals and 23 targets were agreed on. In **Goal D**, the world’s biodiversity finance gap was assessed at 700 billion USD per year. Those should be secured from taxpayers mainly and spent wisely for saving and restoring biodiversity.

The people there in Montreal were honest. They were working on the most serious topic for all of us. But they also understood the financial possibilities deriving from distributing the 700 billion USD per year.

Us, the CIC, led by Shane Mahony, the Head of our Policy and Law Division, were in the middle of it. We worked on the outcome of the precise wording of the goals and the targets over the last years already. We tried hard to include the benefits which derive from hunting and hunters in the Framework. Our allies were - and are others - in the sustainable use community and indigenous people.

However, often we felt **opposed, not understood** and side-lined by others in Montreal. “Hunters destroy biodiversity – what are you doing here?”

The priorities set in the goals are the effective conservation and management of at least 30 % of the world including restoration of lost biodiversity:

Goal A: The integrity and resilience of all eco-systems are maintained, enhanced or restored in order to substantially increase those areas by 2050.

Goal B: Biodiversity is sustainably used and managed.

Goal C: The benefits of sustainable use are shared fair and equally especially with indigenous people and local communities.

In the targets, the priority is set on increasing wildlife.

Target Number 5: “Ensure that the use of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal – respecting the habits of indigenous people and local communities.”

Target Number 9: “Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing benefits for all people, especially indigenous people and local communities.”

At our **General Assembly in Riga last year**, you adopted new statutes with a focus exactly on all those topics: **biodiversity, restoration of eco-systems, health issues and especially honouring the rights of indigenous people and local communities**. All these have now also become a major part of the 2030 Global Biodiversity Framework.

It only shows that biodiversity is at the heart of the CIC. It is us hunters who take biodiversity seriously and we work on it in order to keep it and to improve it. And this for many years already, and without asking taxpayers money.

Hunting render a service to nature and to society, as they:

- understand and manage wildlife
- control damages by wildlife
- bring healthy food on the table and
- enhance biodiversity for free

However, many do not buy this or, even worse, some opponents make money from shouting against us. It only shows that we are not able to explain our actions. There is huge room for improvement to get the good message across.

That is the purpose of the CIC. That is why we were in Montreal. That is why we engage in international organisations, NGOs and conferences. It comes easy – despite opponents – because it is honest and true. Us hunters are nature lovers. We understand nature as we spend a lot of time in it and we do so many things to improve it.

This is difficult to sell in a world where emotions count more than scientific facts. **But still our promise stands, as do our principles.**

In the next days, you will see how we try to tackle the biodiversity agenda from different perspectives.

From the:

- Global perspective
- French perspective (as we are hosted by France)
- Stakeholders perspective
- Communication perspective
- One Health perspective

On top of this, Professor Klaus Hackländer – the Head of our Applied Science Division – will explain the effects of climate change on wildlife.

The team and I want to thank you for coming here, for your interest and for your support.

Let us not be side-lined or overlooked. Us hunters – we are at the core of the biodiversity agenda.