

Nature Champions Summit April 24 and 25, 2019

May 6, 2019

The Nature Champions Summit: Overview

1. The Nature Champions Summit, co-hosted by Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change and the Parks Canada Agency, Catherine McKenna, and Canada's Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Jonathan Wilkinson, kicked off a global year-long push to chart an ambitious, shared path toward protecting the world's nature today, to 2020, and beyond.

The Summit focused on several key themes: identifying and overcoming barriers to nature protection; Indigenous partnerships, and incorporating Indigenous wisdom in stewardship activities; the intersection of nature, oceans and climate change; and innovative financing for nature-based solutions. The Summit also provided a platform for participants to showcase commitments and to develop new partnerships for advancing nature protection.

Coalition of Nature Champions: International Call to Action

2. A coalition of Nature Champions – including international leaders from philanthropy, industry, non-governmental organizations, United Nations agencies, Indigenous peoples and governments at all levels from around the world – came together at the Nature Champions Summit, held in Montréal, Canada, April 24-25. Nature Champions gathered in Montreal to launch a global mobilization with this Call to Action, jointly committing to take a different, better path that puts nature first.

Call to Action: Commitments by Nature Champions

- recognizing the fundamental link between nature, a stable climate, human wellbeing, and sustainable development for all;
- uniting nature conservation objectives with addressing climate change and developing nature-based solutions that are effective for both;
- promoting an ambitious set of new targets for the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) that has clear and measurable objectives for 2030 and effectively enables the world to reach the 2050 Vision of Living in Harmony with Nature;
- widening the participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan beyond governments to include commitments and actions by a wide range of actors;
- addressing nature's needs by increasing the proportion of land and ocean that we protect and conserve around the world and improve the way we manage and restore it;
- addressing the key drivers of nature loss across the world by enhancing concrete action on:
 - reducing habitat-loss and deforestation;
 - curbing terrestrial and marine pollution; and
 - developing and strengthening sustainable supply and value chain management;
- embracing nature-based decision-making in all key political, economic, cultural, and social decisions;
- increasing investment in nature conservation and leveraging existing commitments to mobilize new resources; and
- recognizing and enhancing the role of subnational governments, cities and other local authorities as well as of Indigenous peoples, local communities, women and youth in the protection of nature.

Canada's Leadership

3. Commitment made by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, and Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to work collaboratively with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples to double the amount of nature protected by 2020. Through initiatives such as the recently established Edézhíe Protected Area and Scott Islands Marine National Wildlife Area, Canada has already protected 1.66 million km² of land and ocean.

New Global Research

4. Minister of Environment and Climate Change Canada, Catherine McKenna, announced that Canada will join international partners and the World Economic Forum in supporting new research into the economic opportunity of nature protection. The study will explore the connections between climate change, biodiversity, forests, oceans, and land use; examine the economic value that nature provides; and outline the opportunities for financing conservation globally.

Continuing the Discussion

5. The Nature Champions Summit kicked off a series of international meetings on the protection of nature, including the G7 Environment Ministers' Meeting in Metz, France, May 5-6, the Trondheim Conference on Biodiversity in July of this year, the UN General Assembly high-level segment, Climate Change CoP 25 in December 2019, the Oceans Conference in June 2020, the 2020 World Conservation Congress and the CBD CoP15 in China.
6. The conversation is further extended by asking the online community to pledge to be Nature Champions, using the materials provided on the [web platform](#).