Global Greens demand an annual Biodiversity COP

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Following the landmark agreement last year at COP15, Global Greens calls for an annual biodiversity COP. As acknowledged in Montreal, biodiversity loss is a matter of critical urgency. The current biannual calendar does not provide the framework to support this urgency.

There must be rapid acceleration in the implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework, successfully agreed at COP15, to halt and reverse the devastating biodiversity loss and the accompanying existential threat. This framework clearly outlined 4 key goals and 23 targets that must be achieved by 2030 in order to reverse biodiversity loss and enhance restoration.

We have only 82 months until 2030. That is less than 2,500 days.

There is no time to waste. Holding only 3 biodiversity COP’s before 2030 severely undermines the criticality of this challenge and risks yet another set of missed goals and targets.

This is not just unacceptable, but unforgivable.

A yearly meeting reinforces the urgency and necessity of swift change. It raises the profile of this essential work and creates space for politics, civil society, indigenous peoples, and business to work together. It increases the pressure on governments to act swiftly and decisively and in conjunction with communities. Collaboration and cooperation at all levels is paramount for success.

This is not simply about saving nature, but about ensuring there is a planet for future generations to thrive on. No life, especially our own, can function without healthy, biodiverse natural systems. Any loss of biodiversity is an irreversible loss for humanity. It is an intergenerational injustice, and a social injustice.

The Global Greens welcomes Canadian Minister Steven Guilbeault’s recent announcement to convene a ‘mini-COP’ in Vancouver this August, in tandem with the Global Environment Fund meeting. This provides the initiative to raise the profile and urgency of biodiversity into much more frequent meetings.

Global Greens supports the Convention on Biological Diversity’s work in demanding a yearly meeting and urges all governments and international actors to come together to enact this.

Species loss, land, air and sea degradation and pollution are at levels unseen before in human existence.

This simply cannot be our legacy.