# [***UN hopes for Montreal agreement to prevent biodiversity loss***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:66V4-8SR1-JCG7-82D9-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

Toronto (Canada), Nov. 10 - The UN is hopeful of reaching an agreement during the COP15 summit on ***biodiversity*** to be held in December in Canada, although it acknowledged that only two of the 21 objectives of the draft are closed and the rest of the chapters are still being negotiated.

The executive secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, acknowledged Thursday during a press conference that most of the metrics included in the agreement are not agreed upon.

"For example, there are requests to reduce by half nutrients lost to the environment, pesticides by two-thirds and eliminate plastic waste. All this has yet to be agreed," Mrema explained.

One of the most ambitious goals is to agree that at least 30% of the planet's land and ocean surface should be protected areas.

But perhaps the most controversial aspect in the negotiation of the second part of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) is the elimination, or drastic reduction, of incentives and subsidies that harm ***biodiversity***.

Mrema noted that the proposal on the table is that these subsidies be reduced by at least US$500 million per year.

The draft agreement also contains measures to implement poverty reduction strategies as well as support for women, girls, youth, indigenous peoples and local communities.

The CBD executive secretary added that it will not be easy to reach an agreement when countries meet in Montreal from September 7-19 to finalize the negotiation of all the goals.

"It is clear that it will not be easy. It will take a lot of work and compromise. But the global ***biodiversity*** agreement remains crucial to ensure that humanity's future on the planet is sustainable," he said.

For his part, CBD Deputy Executive Secretary David Cooper said that the impact of ***biodiversity*** ***loss*** around the world is putting pressure for an agreement with ambitious targets to be reached in Montreal.

Cooper added that CBD is seeing greater involvement of heads of state and government in ***biodiversity*** issues although he also acknowledged that world leaders are not planning to attend COP15.

And while CBD's deputy executive secretary said he is confident that a consensus will be reached in Montreal that reinforces ***biodiversity*** targets, he acknowledged that "the problem is of course" is ensuring that the agreement is implemented.

"It's going to be a challenge to put in place the transformational changes that are needed," Cooper added.

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