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Highlights of the Outaouais Regional COP15 (November 22, 2022)

Over 70 biodiversity and nature conservation experts, representatives from Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg, and municipal, provincial, and federal government representatives and elected officials gathered all day for this Outaouais regional COP15.

We achieved three important objectives. First, we brought together different organizations, Indigenous communities, and federal, provincial, and municipal elected officials for a day of meaningful discussions on nature and biodiversity conservation in the Outaouais. Secondly, we gave a voice to the Outaouais at the international COP15 that will take place in Montreal in December. Indeed, we had with us the team of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change as well as several Canadian delegates to the COP15. Thirdly, we discussed and prioritized concrete solutions to achieve certain biodiversity conservation targets at the regional level. The Outaouais can be proud of its leadership in nature protection and its active participation in achieving our national targets and international commitments.

"Mission accomplished for our regional COP15! The Outaouais will have its voice at the international COP15 that will take place in Montreal in December. We have identified and prioritized concrete actions that will allow the Outaouais to participate in achieving our biodiversity and nature protection targets. Together, we will build a green and prosperous Outaouais for ourselves, our children, and future generations!"

Sophie Chatel, MP for Pontiac

"If today's meeting had served as an opportunity for conservation actors to meet and share their achievements, it would have been a success. But the success of the day is not only due to this sharing but rather to the rallying of elected officials and these actors towards concrete actions so that the Outaouais contributes to the objective of 30% conservation on an international scale."

Benoit Delage, Director of the CREDDO

Inspiring and stimulating discussions to identify priority actions to be implemented in the Outaouais to contribute to 5 of the 21 targets of the [Global Framework for Biodiversity](#). Concrete proposals by and for the Outaouais that we hope will resonate at the international COP15 in Montreal in December 2022. Here are some of them:

- Target 2: Ensure that at least 20% of degraded freshwater, marine and terrestrial ecosystems are restored.
 - Develop a profile and a diagnosis of species at risk, degraded ecosystems, and areas in need of restoration.
 - Control invasive species in forests, lakes and wetlands and replace them with native species where possible.

- Target 3: Conserve 30% of land and freshwater areas
 - Integration and collaboration with Indigenous communities, before, during and after conservation projects.
 - Better linkage of federal and municipal funding for biodiversity conservation.
 - More conservation incentives for public and private landowners to implement conservation measures on land.

- Target 4: Implement management actions to enable the recovery and conservation of species and biodiversity, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to avoid or reduce conflicts between them
 - Identify all species, including species at risk.
 - Based on these studies, establish an action plan for the recovery and conservation of species at risk. This plan should be updated based on the data of the study.

- Target 8: Contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation through nature-based approaches
 - Engage the population by communicating scientific knowledge in a simple and effective manner.
 - Provide tools to municipalities that have a large territory to cover and do not have enough financial and human resources to act.

- Target 21: Ensure the equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples in biodiversity-related decision-making and respect their rights to lands, territories, and resources
 - Need for long-term, not project-based funding.
 - Revisit the posture of government and organizations so that it is an equal collaboration from the beginning of the project.
 - Promote better historical and cultural education before starting projects.

An invitation to the entire Outaouais to participate in the public consultation [For a Green and Prosperous Outaouais](#) and to express themselves on the priority actions to be implemented in terms of biodiversity conservation in our region which will be launched in January.

