

December 21, 2020

Dear Secretary Blinken:

Congratulations on your recent nomination. We are so pleased that you have been selected to help lead the United States in restoring its critical role on the global stage on the pressing issues that the world faces, including the existential crises of climate change and biodiversity loss.

We write to you as the Global Steering Committee for the [Campaign for Nature](#) and urge you to act expeditiously and boldly on biodiversity conservation as a necessary component of any climate change agenda.

The climate crisis is inextricably linked with the biodiversity crisis, which scientists have warned now [threatens up to one million species](#) with extinction, many within decades. A growing body of research has underscored the important role that better protecting and significantly increasing investments in nature can play in [meeting climate and biodiversity goals](#), [stimulating economic growth](#), and [decreasing the risks of future pandemics](#).

We believe that there is a critical opportunity for the United States to champion biodiversity conservation at home and globally, and for it to be a key element in your strategy to combat climate change.

Specifically, we encourage you and the incoming Biden Administration to consider supporting the following actions:

- Set a domestic target of protecting at least 30 percent of US lands and waters by 2030, which was included in the [Biden Climate Plan](#) as a Day One executive action, and take bold actions to set the pace for achieving that goal.

- Endorse a new global target of protecting at least 30 percent of the planet's land and ocean by 2030, and have the United States join the [High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People](#), an intergovernmental coalition of more than three dozen countries focused on building support for the 30x30 target.
- Join countries like France in [committing 30 percent of climate funding](#) to biodiversity-positive nature based solutions.
- Reestablish the United States as the world leader in biodiversity conservation financing.
- Set a model for the world in advancing a rights-based approach to terrestrial and marine conservation that fully partners with Indigenous Peoples and local communities and advances Indigenous rights.

We congratulate you again on your nominations and we look forward to having the chance to work with you.

Sincerely,

Russ Feingold, Former US Senator and former Special Envoy to Great Lakes Region of Africa

Hailemariam Desalegn, Former Prime Minister of Ethiopia

Christiana Figueres, Former Executive Secretary UNFCCC

José María Figueres, Former President of Costa Rica

Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, Former President of Iceland

Zakri Abdul Hamid, Former Science Advisor to Prime Minister of Malaysia

Ernest Bai Koroma, Former President of Sierra Leone

Tzipi Livni, Former Foreign Minister of Israel

Susana Malcorra, Former Foreign Minister of Argentina
Amre Moussa, Former Foreign Minister of Egypt
Olusegun Obasanjo, Former President of Nigeria
Mary Robinson, Former President of Ireland
Emil Salim, Former Environmental Minister of Indonesia
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Former President of Liberia
Yongyuth Yuthavong, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand

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Dear Secretary Kerry:

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