



INTERNATIONAL  
LAND CONSERVATION  
NETWORK

## ILCN Director Presents at the UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) NGO Forum

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As one of the eight parallel forums of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP15) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the NGO Forum was held in Kunming, China, September 27-28, 2021. More than 400 participants representing governments, enterprises, NGOs, youth groups, local and indigenous communities, and the public from more than 30 countries across five continents participated in the forum on-site and online. The forum was streamed on the CBD website, Twitter, YouTube, Yahoo, Daily Journal, and several Chinese Journalist and website including Sina Weibo. The total view count was around 500,000.

The forum intended to promote sharing of cutting-edge views, cases, and actions about the negotiation of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, biodiversity mainstreaming, and voluntary commitments from non-state actors, with an aim to contribute to the official CBD COP15 meeting that was held on October 11<sup>th</sup> in Kunming.

ILCN Director Jim Levitt represented the Lincoln Institute and the International Land Conservation Network (ILCN) and gave a presentation on “The International Role of Civic Sector Land Trusts and Conservancies in Conserving Biodiversity and Addressing Climate Change” at “Forum-4: Intended Contributions from Non-State Actors and the Post-2020 Goal for Biodiversity Conservation.” In Jim’s presentation, he emphasized that ILCN cooperated with organizations and individuals in more than 100 countries on six continents to protect land through private land trusts, using land ownership, easement, lease, and other mechanisms. As of 2021, there were approximately 25 million hectares of land protected by private land trusts in North America, 15 million hectares and 4 million hectares in Australia and Europe. Different civil organizations supported conservation projects that were creative, measurably effective, strategically significant, transferrable and enduring, setting important international precedents. Levitt also talked about experiences around the world, such as using easements in Chile to protect ecological corridors, selecting wind power sites in the United States in places with low risk of biodiversity conflicts, conserving watersheds in Germany, and protecting birds across Africa and the Middle East Migration Corridor. Additionally, he mentioned projects like Greening Australia’s commitment to restoring millions of hectares of land in Australia and Ant Forest planting trees in China. In the end, he emphasized the importance of peer learning and international experience exchange.

David Foster at Harvard Forest hosted a roundtable discussion on “Civic Sectors’ Contribution to Non-State Actors’ Voluntary Commitment” and Jody Gunn, CEO of the Australian Land Conservation Alliance showed their voluntary commitment at the Closing Ceremony.

[View the presentation recording here.](#)

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