

## FROM The New York Times...

### *The Most Important Global Meeting You've Probably Never Heard Of Is Now*

Countries are gathering in an effort to stop a biodiversity collapse that scientists say could equal climate change as an existential crisis.



By **Catrin Einhorn**

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As 20,000 government leaders, journalists, activists and celebrities from around the world prepare to descend on Glasgow for a crucial [climate summit](#) starting late this month, another high-level international environmental meeting got started this week. The problem it seeks to tackle: A rapid collapse of species and systems that collectively sustain life on earth.

The stakes at the two meetings are equally high, many leading scientists say, but the biodiversity crisis has received far less attention.

“If the global community continues to see it as a side event, and they continue thinking that climate change is now the thing to really listen to, by the time they wake up on biodiversity it might be too late,” said Francis Ogwal, one of the leaders of the working group charged with shaping an agreement among nations.

**Catrin Einhorn** reports on wildlife and extinction for the Climate desk. She has also worked on the Investigations desk, where she was part of the Times team that received the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for its reporting on sexual harassment. @catrineinhorn

**LINK:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/climate/un-biodiversity-conference-climate-change.html>

“This week, environment officials, diplomats and other observers from around the world gathered online, and a small group assembled in person in Kunming, China, for the meeting, the 15th United Nations biodiversity conference.” **LINK:** <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/climate/un-biodiversity-conference-climate-change.html>

**From the SDG Knowledge Hub...** On 18 August 2021, the Secretariat announced that COP 15 will take place in two parts. The first part will take place in a virtual format, from 11-15 October 2021. The second part of COP 15 will be a face-to-face meeting in Kunming, China, from 25 April-8 May 2022.

**LINK:** <http://sdg.iisd.org/events/2020-un-biodiversity->