



Awakening A Flourishing Future

Brahma Kumaris World University (BKWSU)
response to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework
“Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”

“Summery paper”

The Brahma Kumaris celebrates the progress made in raising global consciousness about the triple threat of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. However, it may only be a spiritual consciousness that gives us the power to make further advancements.

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (COP 15) is happening at a very critical time. Commitment is needed by all actors for an ambitious, transformative nature positive agreement. The **Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University** (BKWSU) is dedicated to *Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth*.

We support negotiations to:

- reverse biodiversity loss and prevent extinctions with ambitious goals and targets;
- ensure biodiversity, genetic resources and digital sequence information (DSI) are shared equitably;
- ensure the role, traditional knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, women, youth and other stakeholders are respected and strengthened in decision making;
- address the drivers of biodiversity loss and ecosystem destruction such as industrial agriculture, food systems and fossil fuel industries;
- limit the use of pesticides in agriculture, eliminating the discharge of plastic waste;
- secure financial resources, capacity building and implementation mechanisms to guide member states to integrate the framework into their national conservation plans.

However, we believe this will not be enough.

Awakening.

To truly awaken a flourishing future something is needed to bring about an attitudinal shift and deep commitment in peoples’ hearts and minds. The power of faith and spiritual power from within can catalyze radical positive change. It can impart hope and help everyone make difficult choices. Since 1937 The Brahma Kumaris has been dedicated to helping awaken all people to a set of higher values, which inspire human action in the service of the widest possible good. As an NGO

accredited to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and CBD, we have brought our spiritual knowledge to many of the environmental contexts in which the UN serves. Our simple and compassionate lifestyle and practical initiatives such as *India One* Solar a 1MW electrical solar thermal power plant, *Sustainable Yogic Agriculture*, and *KalpTaruh* an innovative forest restoration program among others¹ serve to demonstrate our dedication to taking environmental actions in the physical world while always being informed by a spiritual consciousness.

Contemplating *Ecosynthesis*

For COP 15 we propose a concept called *ecosynthesis*², a form of contemplation that works as an “ecology of the soul”, a bio-spiritual-dynamic process to heal, regenerate and our connection to the self, people, Mother Nature and the Divine to flourish.

Starting Within

We believe the emergence of a flourishing future starts within individuals. Within the awareness of the self and the choices we make, we find the power to transform our world and leave a blueprint for an ecological civilization.

Regenerating Relationships

Cultivating an awareness that includes rights, responsibilities and reciprocity will improve our relationships within the biodiversity of life. Developing a consciousness that promotes care, mutuality and sufficiency for all living beings will transform the ingrained sense of competition and ruling over nature.

Making Sustainable Choices

This flourishing spiritual consciousness will help us make lifestyle choices and collective decisions about the policies and practices we implement on a global scale. Consistent choices to live simply, buy compassionately, use economically, learn collectively and share generously will make a difference. We can accelerate these changes by listening to the wisdom from multigenerational stewards of the land who respect the sacredness of all beings. We can benefit by pursuing collective inspirations and equitably engaging Indigenous people, local communities, women, youth and other historically marginalized groups.

Recognizing our Divine Potential

Ecosynthesis allows us to realize our divine potential and to remember that all human souls are indigenous to an inner dimension of silence and peace. This dimension is our spiritual home, the place where we can meet God, the source of infinite spiritual power. The recognition of our own

¹ www.eco.brahmakumaris.org

² Link to full statement: <https://eco.brahmakumaris.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Ecosynthesis-Statement-FINAL.pdf>

spiritual consciousness mirrors what is divine in all of us with no distinction of color, race, gender, or culture. It is what defines humans and all living beings as sacred.

Awakening a Flourishing Future

The contemplative practice of *ecosynthesis* can enlighten us by transforming our thoughts and feelings into regenerative spiritual values such as harmony, love, peace and respect. This connection to the Divine can also grow spiritual restorative powers within us such as cooperation, courage, adaptation and tolerance. These values and powers take root in our minds, blossom in our hearts, and flourish in our actions. They will create a garden that regenerates and enhances both our personal and Earth's wellbeing.

Unfolding Harmony

The biodiversity of life serves us, and it is our responsibility to serve life in exchange. It is a pivotal time to recognize the sacredness of biodiversity on this beautiful blue planet –a time for spiritual regeneration and strengthening our divine consciousness. We celebrate the progress made in the last decade in raising global consciousness about the triple threat of biodiversity loss, pollution and climate change. However, it is a spiritual consciousness shift that will give us the power to make the kinds of advancement that will achieve the 2050 SDG goal of living in harmony and peace with nature and all living beings.

We invite everyone in this pivotal and auspicious time to engage in experiments of silence and peace as part of an *ecosynthesis* to assist in opening our hearts and minds and together creating a world of ecological harmony.



The Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU)

BKWSU, with its spiritual headquarters in Mt. Abu, India, comprises a worldwide network of centers in 110 countries and is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) of the United Nations (UN) accredited with General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC); Associate Status with the Department of Global Communications (DCG); Consultative Status with UN Children's Fund (UNICEF); Observer Status to the UN Environment Assembly of UNEP; Observer Organization to UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Flagship Member of Education for Rural People (ERP), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

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