



→Are you taking part  
in the protection  
of biodiversity and  
freshwater ecosystems in  
the Barents region?

**Show your support for  
the UN Convention on  
Biological Diversity!**

Picture: Voronina Natalia



Ministry of the  
Environment Finland







**The Barents regions of Finland, Sweden, Norway and Russia** have magnificent water systems and their catchment areas that maintain unique biodiversity and natural products, clean waters and recreational opportunities. However, due to climate change and pressure to use natural resources, biodiversity is declining in the Barents region. Halting the loss of nature requires ambitious action from the local to the global level. Concrete local action and global cooperation work best together.

At the next meeting of the parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in late 2021, the goal is for the countries of the world to agree on common goals to halt the loss of biodiversity globally. Finland, as the chair of the Barents Euro-Arctic Council's working group on environment, wants to inspire actors in the Barents region to showcase existing efforts to protect biodiversity in the Barents region. The Barents region has a wealth of expertise in the protection of freshwater ecosystems, such as the restoration of rivers. We want to bring these great actions together, and show on a global scale how much impact local and regional projects have - small streams make big rivers.

We invite all interested actors in the Barents region to submit their own freshwater ecosystem projects and other activities to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Voluntary Commitments Portal (more detailed guidance on the next page). Towards the end of 2021, before the next meeting of the parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, we will bring together the reported actions of the Barents region. We will make a final summary of all reported actions by the end of 2022. We challenge everyone to join in - let's raise together the unique nature and conservation work of the Barents region to the world map!



### **Nature can't wait - 2021-2030 is the UN Decade of Ecosystem Restoration**

The UN has declared 2021-2030 a decade of ecosystem restoration. At the global level, it has been recognized that the SDGs cannot be achieved by 2030 without large-scale restoration of damaged terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems. 2030 is also the deadline that scientists have set as the last deadline to prevent the catastrophic consequences of climate change. The Barents initiative also supports the Decade of Restoration.



# Instructions for participation

## → Voluntary commitments

Various public organizations, companies, individuals and communities can make voluntary commitments under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. Commitments are purely voluntary and informal, such as the implementation of suitable projects. The scope of the commitments can range from a major water restoration project to a decision by individual citizens to raise awareness of biodiversity protection among their community. Commitments must be relevant to the protection and sustainable use of biodiversity.

## → Barents region initiative: Freshwater Ecosystems

Finland, as the chair of the Barents Working Group on Environment, wants to encourage commitments to the protection of freshwater ecosystems and catchment areas, as the water systems of the Barents region are unique and deserve to be better known. We therefore welcome commitments on, for example,

### **these actions:**

- restoration of waters and wetlands, removal of migratory fish barriers
- combatting invasive alien species
- sustainable management of freshwater resources and catchment areas
- sustainable use of freshwater resources by local communities and indigenous peoples
- the establishment, extension and management of protected areas for freshwater ecosystems

Finland, as the chair of the Barents Working Group on Environment, encourages both the organizations participating in the Barents co-operation and all interested actors in the region to participate.

**To incorporate your own commitment** into the Barents Initiative, please add your commitment to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Voluntary Commitments Portal preferably by October 2021, but latest by the end of 2022, as instructed on the next page



## How to make a commitment:

- 1 Go to <https://www.cbd.int/action-agenda/contribute/>
- 2 Choose either Public Sector (including local administration); Business; Other organizations (NGOs, Academia, other organizations); or Individual
- 3 Fill out the online form. Include your contact details, the name of your commitment and a brief summary of your activities / project, and a description of how your commitment relates to biodiversity protection. You can also add pictures and links. You can also read about [the Aichi Targets](#) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and [the UN Sustainable Development Goals](#) and see what similarities they have to your own commitment.
- 4 Once your commitment has been published, email a link to your commitment to [ibs@barentscooperation.org](mailto:ibs@barentscooperation.org)

### Read more:

- Barents Euro-Arctic Council
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity
- UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration
- Ministry of the Environment of Finland



Ministry of the  
Environment Finland

