

Corporate influence in COP 15 outcomes and beyond

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Main outcomes COP15

- Targets 14-16
- Mainstreaming
- Finance
- Agriculture

False Solutions

- Nature Based Solutions
- Net Gain / Nature Positive
- Transfer of responsibility to consumer
- Technofixes

Other effects of COP 15

- Change in funding responsibility
- Change in presence corporate actors in CBD
- Change in expectations

Further work in countries

Indicators
NBSAPS

Main outcomes COP15 – relevant for corporate influence

- Targets 14-16
- Mainstreaming
- Finance
- Agriculture

Main outcomes GBF: measures that don't affect the economy and corporate sectors

- Impact of economic sectors on biodiversity is enormous and continuously growing.
 - The GBF was called to ensure “transformative change” would happen
- ⇒ Strict regulation to ensure that businesses can't destroy ecosystems, can't harm biodiversity
- ⇒ Real outcomes don't do this

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into **policies, regulations, planning and development processes**, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across **all levels of government and across all sectors**, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, **progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, fiscal and financial flows** with the goals and targets of this framework.

** Civil society can use target 14 to demand government regulation!

Target 15

Take legal, administrative or policy measures **to encourage and enable** business, and in particular **to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:**

- (a) Regularly **monitor, assess**, and transparently disclose their **risks, dependencies and impacts** on biodiversity, including with **requirements for all large as well as transnational companies** and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;
- (b) **Provide information needed to consumers** to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- (c) Report on compliance with **access and benefit-sharing regulations** and measures, as applicable;

in order to progressively **reduce negative impacts on biodiversity**, **increase positive impacts**, **reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions**, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

- At first, there was nothing about policy measures – our complaints as CBD alliance raised attention to this
- However, “encourage and enable” has nothing to do with stringent measures
- Monitoring, etc has no impact whatsoever on the impacts themselves
- Unclear what the “requirements for large & transnational companies” would be => it does allow civil society to work on proposals to set up such requirements!
- We lost the respect for human rights in this text
- Policy measures regarding information for costumers: **civil society can work on proposals to demand these to be accurate, coherent, and to set up lawsuits when they are not.
- Increase positive impacts: this refers to “net gain/nature positive” kind of approaches! ** We should attack these!

Target 16

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make **sustainable consumption choices**, including by establishing **supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives**, and by 2030 **reduce the global footprint of consumption** in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly **reducing overconsumption** and **substantially reducing waste generation**, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

⇒baseline: this is a transference of responsibility from corporations to citizens

⇒In many countries, there is no such information available

⇒For most peoples around the world, “sustainable consumption choices” are inaccessible.

But, civil society can use this positively:

**Policy frameworks can be proposed beyond specific certification schemes

**Relevant information: we can use this to oblige states to verify certification labels and sanction abuses

**Education and access to information can be pushed to be organised at state level

**We can develop proposals regarding the equitable reduction of footprints, and overconsumption

**We can propose policies for waste generation

Long Term Action Plan on Mainstreaming

- Has been a hugely problematic area
 - LTAM was full of false solutions & corporate influence
 - Was pushed by secretariat to be approved already in Geneva. Text at start of COP still proposed welcoming it
 - AHTEC to further implement it
 - Also, proposal to institutionalise the Extended Consultative Network that would include views from the corporate sector
- ⇒ Huge differences between countries – for some it was way too neoliberal, for others, it was way too intrusive in their economies
- ⇒ Lack of negotiation time
- ⇒ Ultimately, none of these were approved. Only “the work of the informal Advisory Group” of the was welcomed (not the text itself)
- ⇒ To be retaken in next SBI => so basically almost no progress since 2019
- ** Civil society must now come up with proposals of what WE think mainstreaming should look like!

Other effects of COP 15

- Change in funding responsibility
- Change in the presence of corporate actors in CBD

- A shift from a government & policy space, to a public relation space
- Huge pavillons for business, speaking opportunities, dedicated days for business, finance etc
- Bezos foundation committing 10Billion US\$
- Many actors don't believe in receiving state funds anymore, and turned to these private funds

False Solutions

- Nature Based Solutions
- Net Gain (Nature Positive?)
- Transfer of responsibility to the consumer
- Technofixes, sustainable intensification, etc

Nature Based Solutions

- Had already been approved by UNEA and UNFCCC
 - Basically puts biodiversity in the function of climate policies
 - Target 8: (...) mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including **through nature-based solution and/or ecosystem-based approaches**
 - Target 11: maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, **through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches** (...).
- ⇒ Understanding of NBS is broad and linked to ecosystem-based approaches, and not explicitly to offsetting. Still, the risk of NBS being implemented as climate offsetting is significant
- Text on Biodiversity and climate change had NBS without brackets – but then the whole issue was postponed for COP 16

No Net Loss - Net Gain & Nature Positive

- Don't appear as concepts any longer – especially for Nature Positive this is a real win
- However, the GBF still clearly thinks in “overall areas” of nature
- Indicators relate to overall areas, and not to “areas lost” and “areas restored”
- Offsetting is mentioned as a source of funding

Transfer of responsibility to consumers

- Certification schemes: with numerous problems in the past
 - Certification doesn't even comply with its own standards
 - Standards don't reflect the expectations of the public
 - Grievance mechanisms non-functional
- Managed by multistakeholder platforms, where corporations and large conservation NGOs have the major voice, and IPLCs are often present, but without power.

Overall result is that state responsibilities are diminished, while guilt-driven individual responsibilities are enhanced.

Further work in countries

- Indicators
- NBSAPS

- Indicators can be much less visible, and grant a lot more interesting aspects for corporate actors:
 - TNFD as an indicator!
 - Lack of indicators for loss of ecosystems
- National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans can become a real place for implementation of false solutions, including offsetting, and other corporate interests.
Much attention to be paid to multistakeholder platforms' involvement in development or execution of NBSAPs

** As CBD Alliance, we must make sure we exchange amongst ourselves on the implementation in the different countries!