



## Guide to Human Rights-Based Approaches to the GBF

Helen Tugendhat

The adoption of the GBF marked a significant advance in integrating human rights into environmental policy and actions. Parties have agreed that the “implementation of the Framework should follow a human rights-based approach, respecting, protecting, promoting and fulfilling human rights”.

Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group developed a new guide, compiled with a specific purpose: to provide additional support and concrete examples for Parties and decision-makers, non-state actors, and for rightsholders, on how to meet this commitment to embed a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in the implementation and monitoring of the GBF at national and sub-national levels. The guide is the result of a 6-month collaborative project with 21 contributing authors from academia, from NGOs, from research institutions, Indigenous Peoples’ organisations, and social movements.

It aims to provide a concise resource, sign-posting key elements, and in each section of the guide additional references are provided to more comprehensive specific guidance. In approaching the subject in this way, it is expected that this guide can complement the work of other expert bodies, notably the work of the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) and the multiple Special Procedures and mandate holders within that office.

The guide was launched in yesterday’s side event at SBI4 in English, and other language versions will follow. Questions can be directed to any member of the Human Rights and Biodiversity Working Group. For the guide download,

Please visit:



### No to corporate mainstreaming

Nele Marien, FOEI

Mainstreaming biodiversity in all economic sectors has so far meant “listening to the sectors to see which measures they are willing to undertake”. Parties and the Secretariat have been careful in assuring that industries feel comfortable with, and included in, the process.

The list of actions proposed under the LTAM therefore does not address the urgent need for strict regulation of economic sectors to adjust their operations to reduce their impacts to levels that respect ecosystem integrity and fit within planetary boundaries. If we want to fulfil the objectives of the Convention, we will need to make sure that industry is not allowed to get away with biodiversity destruction by promising to compensate for them, or by promising to take voluntary measures. Analysis has shown that voluntary measures do not get implemented in more than 70% of the cases, and only very partially in all the rest of the cases. This clearly shows that voluntary measures are not effective in order to prevent further destruction of biodiversity.

# Mainstreaming: Continuation of the LTAM is a bad idea

Statement on item 10 on behalf of Friends of the Earth International, Econexus, Third World Network and Biomass Action Network

Not read in plenary, as no observer statements were allowed

We welcome the proposal in document SBI4/13 to discontinue work on a separate long-term strategic approach for mainstreaming biodiversity in light of the fact that the main elements of the draft strategic approach have already been integrated into the GBF.

We want to remind parties that the LTAM was developed by the Informal Advisory Group and an External Advisory Committee. The latter was regrettably not developed using a transparent process and did not have the balanced representation required under the Convention. On the contrary, it comprised an excessive number of corporate-linked actors, who had several opportunities to provide their inputs, and who could have had potential or actual conflicts of interest. Parties, on the other hand, were not granted the opportunity to have in-depth discussions of the text. Such a process led to an unbalanced outcome, which should not be the basis for further work. Neither should such unbalanced proposals find their way into other processes of the Convention.

We have listened with interest to the alternative suggestions by the EU in this respect. We are concerned that the expression "coalition of the willing" promotes a plurilateral approach. Such an approach should not have a place in the work of the Convention, which is a multilateral agreement.

At risk would be the collective, consensus-based approach to negotiations aimed at striking a balance among the interests of the entire CBD membership.

Moreover, advocating for a "coalition of the willing" does not pay full respect to the clear willingness that all Parties have expressed to align all their national policies, activities and financial flows with the GBF, as expressed in GBF target 14.

We would like to emphasize in this respect that 'alignment' goes beyond 'mainstreaming', as it does not only refer to integrating biodiversity in national sectoral policies and financial flows, but it implies that these policies and flows should be adapted to align with the goals and targets of the GBF. We thus urge Governments to go beyond mainstreaming, and to focus the work on guidance to align sectoral policies with the GBF.

We also support the concrete text proposals by Argentina, which are similar to the proposals we wanted to make. In the interest of time, we will not repeat them.