



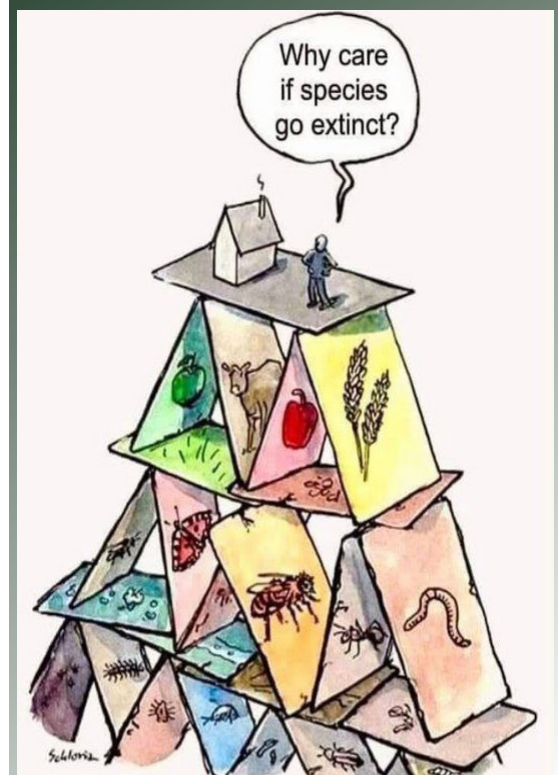
Five Key Points on Biodiversity

F.D. Millar, Quaker Earthcare Witness

1. Recent reports highlight the biodiversity crisis - increasing rates of loss, extinction and collapse of ecosystems which are interlocked with climate change and environmental, racial, aboriginal, gender and economic justice. The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is one of the most important legally binding environmental treaties, more so since the 2015 Paris deal gutted the Kyoto Protocol on climate both of its legal force, and of its symbolic gesture toward polluter-pay "common but differentiated responsibility" (aka CBDR).
2. Potential genocidal impact on Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) of inaction and action such as imposing "protected areas", parks, wetlands, conservation and marine areas without consultation, where IPLCs are excluded in planning processes, have no right of appeal or body to appeal to, and are denied Access to Benefits (promised in the Nagoya Protocol of the CBD) by multinationals and their rich-government allies. There is also evidence of IPLCs evicted by armed force, assassination and burning of villages. In recent years rich countries have also stacked CBD scientific committees with "experts" from corporate lobbies and some "Big Conservation" (ENGOs that have traditionally relied on corporate donations). CBD and GBF must be rights-based.
3. Self-deception and creative accounting. "Voluntary" national action plans are artificially inflated by including corporate, sub-regional, and "Big Conservation" projects, but even so, they fail to reach the level that science shows is needed. None of the 2010 CBD targets have been fully met. State responsibility is fragmented, often subverted by entrenched lobbies for fossil-fuel-based agriculture, fishing, forestry, mining, and growth at any cost. Empty promises abound. Yet the original CBD treaty was meant to be used as a legally binding commitment to sustainable use as well as conservation.
4. Avoid false solutions and greenwashing. Faith groups and NGOs must do due diligence, denouncing false elements and greenwashing of the "Nature based Solutions" (Nbs) campaign. In the last 5 years a number of pilot projects were started by "Big Conservation" groups, corporate donors, the GEF and GCF, development banks, Wall Street and carbon marketers. So-called "carbon credits" are generated for sale at \$150/ton, when experts say the real costs are 10 times that. They are cheap pollution licenses.
5. Immediate and long-lasting action is needed. The Faith & Biodiversity UN Coordination Group will work with diverse organizations attending the CBD meetings and thousands of international and local participants on the outside. Pablo Solon and Third World NGOs will hold a Global Popular Assembly in 2023.

Click here for a longer version of this text with links to scientific and NGO reports: shorturl.at/hwE37

By @Schlorian



Why we must protect precaution at the CBD

Zahra Moloo, the ETC Group

From its very inception, the Convention on Biological Diversity has prioritized a precautionary approach to new technologies, enabling parties to create regulations, rules and sometimes moratoria on technologies such as genetically modified organisms (GMOs), genetically modified trees, gene drives and others. This has been fundamental to the well-being of countries, nations and their biodiversity, providing an important means to scan, assess and monitor risky and sometimes dangerous new technologies. At this crucial time of ecological crisis, we are calling for horizon scanning, technology assessment and the monitoring of new and emerging technologies to be reflected in the text of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF).

This is especially important with respect to Target 17 which has to do with biotechnology. Target 17 has horizon scanning, technology assessment and the monitoring of new and emerging technologies within square brackets; we are calling for those brackets to be completely removed, particularly with regards to "manage or control potentially dangerous impacts from new biotechnologies".

This is important for coherence, as an upcoming COP15 decision will establish specific means for horizon scanning, tech assessment and monitoring of new developments in synthetic biology. Removing the brackets in the text of Target 17 would enable this precautionary approach to apply to synthetic biology, including the controversial technology of gene drives. Citizens of Burkina Faso, Uganda and Tanzania who are present at this COP15 are especially concerned about the risky impacts of gene drives on biodiversity in their countries

Additionally, we are calling for delegates to recognize within the GBF the importance of traditional and indigenous knowledge and indigenous technologies. This will be reflected in Target 6 of the text which mentions "innovations" and practices to target invasive species, but does not explicitly mention the importance of innovation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

More at: <https://etcgroup.org/content/protecting-legacy-precaution>

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