

Goal B

Elements to be replaced

- “Ecosystem services” by “Ecosystem functions”

The CBD defined ecosystem functions clearly, while the word “services” is a market term that suggests that ecosystems are only there to serve human (economic) requirements - and an economic system that is growth-driven and, as depicted by IPBES, one of the primary root drivers of biodiversity loss. Thus this reference needs to be replaced.

- “Fully accounted” by “biodiversity monitoring to ensure the achievement of the GBF”.

Accounting as an economic, monetary way of considering the environment can be counterproductive and lead to the commodification of nature. The aim should be to monitor the implementation of the GBF consistently.

Elements that should be part of the goal

- The right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment

The resolution was passed at the UN General Assembly on July 28 and is vital for the enjoyment of all human rights and for achieving rapid, inclusive, equitable and ambitious progress in the protection, conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity

- Equitable and gender-just conservation and sustainable use

A significant cause of biodiversity destruction arises from the profound inequity between regions and within countries. It is vital to tackle this issue according to CBDR, taking into account historical production and consumption patterns and gender-differentiated forms of sustainable use.

- Sustainably and equitably governed and managed ecosystems

Good gender-just and equitable governance and management of conserved ecosystems are essential. The IPBES has particularly noted the vital contribution of Indigenous Peoples, and further securing recognition of their territories is essential.

- Wide range of biodiversity values

IPBES indicated the importance of multiple perspectives and understandings of nature, including those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities who use and embody concepts like Mother Earth to leverage transformative change. However, policy-makers have mainly focused on the economic and market value of biodiversity while ignoring the other values of nature. Indicators on these multiple values must not focus only on economic issues.

- Fair and equitable reduction of the ecological footprint to operate within planetary boundaries

For the overall use of biodiversity to be truly sustainable, it must be within planetary boundaries. To get to this point, the ecological footprint needs to be reduced to a level that does not exceed the Earth's biocapacity. This is a priority, especially in countries where overconsumption prevails, while LDCs still need to have room for development, in line with Agenda 2030

Elements that should NOT be part of the goal

- Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

The term nature-based solutions is used in many different contexts, many of which are counterproductive for the environment. In particular, offsetting and greenwashing NBS-projects by corporations can undermine real biodiversity benefits. Most NBS projects are heavily climate oriented, often to the peril of biodiversity, and UNEA has asked for an analysis of their long-term effect on the climate first.

- “Value”

The word value is usually interpreted by decision-makers by focusing on its economic and monetary aspects. As the IPBES values assessment showed, this approach could lead to the overexploitation of nature through processes of commodification and financialisation of nature in a system driven mainly by economic growth values. Instead, multiple, non-monetary values should be taken into account.