

New target: impact of actions on biodiversity in other countries

Scope of the target

- Ensure that Parties' activities do not cause damage to the environment of other Parties or areas beyond national jurisdiction

Articles 3 and 4b of the Convention clearly define this obligation and include other countries and areas beyond national jurisdiction (ABNJ). CBD articles 3 and 4 (b) can be fully understood as CBD obligations in this respect in their connection to the CBD articles 7c, 8 (l) and articles 6 (f), 8 (i), 8 (j), 8 (m), 14.1 (d) & 22.1, etc.

Moreover, we cannot address biodiversity loss and our multiple crises while we continue to damage the environment of other Parties and Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction. We must address these crises collectively according to the principle of Common But Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR).

Elements that should be part of the target

- Consumption and international trade and investment

These are major drivers of biodiversity loss and must be tackled at national and international levels in a just and equitable way.

- Countries' ecological footprints not to exceed their fair share of global biocapacity, Currently, the difference in ecological footprint between countries and between the global north and global south is enormous. Countries with high ecological footprints must be identified and sanctioned based on thorough and verifiable studies. The CBD must urgently address the current gross inequalities in ecological footprints and the inequitable geographic distribution of negative impacts.

- Avoid negative telecoupling

According to paragraphs 3 and 4b of the Convention, countries must take responsibility for the damage they may cause to biodiversity in other countries, including through their production and consumption.

Telecoupling: comprehensive analysis of the negative socioeconomic and environmental impacts of activities on people and biodiversity in distant parts of the planet, creating damaging interlinkages that may not at first be obvious. The concept is explained and demonstrated in the IPBES global assessment report.