

Target 14: Governments

Elements to be replaced

- Replace “fully integrate biodiversity values into policies” with “considerations” or else “issues and commitments”

Even though the definition of “values” in the CBD recognises all the different values (the intrinsic, ecological, genetic, social, economic, scientific, educational, cultural, recreational and aesthetic values) in implementation and in the indicators, this tends to be reduced to “economic value”. “Considerations” implies that biodiversity must be duly considered, particularly when the project that would lead to destruction would be more profitable than any economic valuation of nature. “Issues and commitments” means any issue important for biodiversity and any commitment parties have made to biodiversity.

Elements that should be part of the target

- Strong regulation by governments

Governments must be the primary actors because industrial sectors, such as mining, industrial agriculture, oil production, etc., are much more powerful than biodiversity advocates and environmental defenders. Governments need to determine environmental rules and ensure it is not advantageous to disregard the needs of biodiversity in order to be more competitive.

- Align all new and existing policies and financial flows

The integration of all biodiversity issues and commitments into policies, or in short, a “biodiversity check”, is needed for all new and existing policies to avoid negative impacts on biodiversity. Assessments of environmental, social, cultural, gender and human rights impacts should be comprehensively applied.

Development projects and other processes that destroy biodiversity and ecosystems are usually also harmful to social, cultural, gender and human rights.

Ultimately, all policies and financial flows must be compatible with the needs of biodiversity and of people and the planet, ensuring the achievement of the goals and targets of the GBF.

- Adopt NBSAPS as overarching and comprehensive policy instruments.

NBSAPS must be developed as comprehensive policy instruments and have political weight at the ministerial decision-making level. As a result, all policies, regulations, planning, financing assessment, public and private financial flows, poverty reduction and other state processes which affect biodiversity must respect all CBD obligations and fulfil them, independent of the governance level or economic sector.

NBSAPS were also part of the Aichi Targets, so not including them would be a regression.

- Strategic environmental and technology assessments

Technologies should be required to undergo horizon scanning, assessment, and monitoring to avoid negative impacts and be regulated to prevent harm and prioritise the conservation of biodiversity.

Elements that should NOT be part of the target

- Recognise biodiversity as a strategic asset for the economy

This suggests we need to put an economic value on biodiversity. It reduces biodiversity to only one of its values and often opens the way to trading and offsetting, thereby to more destruction.

- “Sustainable” deep-sea mining

Deep sea mining presents an unacceptable risk to ecosystems that are little understood, highly biodiverse, fragile, and slow to recover from the impacts of activities such as mining. No such mining can ever be sustainable and should be prohibited altogether.

- Deep Sea mining with safeguards

The current wording on safeguards assumes that deep-sea mining will be allowed under certain circumstances. Deep-sea mining should not be allowed, and safeguards would not make it acceptable.

- And its multiple values

The mainstreaming document and the indicators make clear that even though the target talks about “multiple values”, their implementation concentrates on economic values only. Multiple values are important, but we need guarantees that implementation would take all of them into account, which is currently not the case.