



Statement by members of the CBD Alliance on Target 8

A target on “climate and biodiversity” should focus on three things:

- Reduce the common threat of biodiversity loss & enhanced emissions by deforestation, land and forest management practices and animal and crop production.
- Ensure that climate measures have no negative impact on biodiversity, which implies a rejection of monoculture tree plantations, bioenergy and related carbon capture and storage and geo-engineering.
- Prioritize mitigation and adaptation actions that enhance biodiversity, including ecosystem restoration and practices that enhance biological diversity in agro-ecosystems. Indicators should be used that capture an increase in land area under such practices and at the same time recognize IPLC and women’s tenure rights.

Biodiversity collapse and climate change have the same common drivers. We need to minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity by addressing the main drivers of climate change. As it is formulated, this target doesn’t preclude -and could even encourage- the use of empty net-zero commitments and geo-engineering technologies. This target should instead focus on reducing drivers of climate change such as deforestation, industrial agriculture and livestock by including a reference to SDG 15.2 on zero deforestation. It should ensure rights based, holistic, gender transformative, community-based approaches as well as ecological integrity.

There are serious concerns about the feasibility of mitigating 10GTCO₂eq per year through ecosystem approaches. In our view, the target of 10GTCO₂eq per year is not consistent with true ecosystem approaches, indeed it could only be achieved through monoculture tree plantations, often proposed for bioenergy with carbon capture and storage. These are not ecosystems, and harm biodiversity and IPLCs, in particular women. Many other such projects are framed under the name of nature-based solutions. Therefore, we do not want to see this term re-introduced in the text.

The idea that “ecosystems” can capture 10GTCO₂eq per year, seems to be the basis for the assumption by policy makers and corporate actors that immediate and effective reduction of CO₂ emissions is less urgent than it really is, soothed with the excuse that “nature can capture it”. There is an imminent risk that the capturing of CO₂ through ecosystems would become the basis for climate offsetting, which further undermines dealing with the root causes. This is extremely dangerous and effectively means continuing with business as usual.

In the CBD, there is a legal definition of “ecosystem approaches”, so we suggest to use that term. We need to ensure climate and biodiversity measures and related definitions do not contradict each other. The ecosystem approach is a sound basis for biodiversity-related actions to contribute to climate mitigation and resilience.

That is why we propose the following wording:

Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, **through reducing greenhouse gas emissions from all sources, particularly from agriculture and animal production and by halting deforestation**, contribute to mitigation and adaptation **through rights-based, holistic, gender responsive and community-governed** ecosystem based approaches, ~~contributing at least 10 GtCO₂e per year to global mitigation efforts,~~ **address the drivers of biodiversity loss and climate change**, and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.