

Language to look out for at the CBD COP15

GREENPEACE

Key terms in an around the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) draft text

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- **Offsets** are not a direct topic of negotiation in Montreal, since neither the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or the GBF have any established negotiating track to discuss an equivalent to carbon market mechanisms (as the Paris Agreements provide under the UNFCCC).
 - There is no definition or clear methodology for **biodiversity offsets**.
 - Many governments as well as conservation groups do include carbon offsets and even biodiversity offsets (which as of yet do not exist) in their calculations.
- **“Nature-based solutions” (NBS)** is not a technical term for the UNFCCC, CBD, IPCC, or IPBES. The UNEA definition of NBS is not legally binding, and carries ambiguities that present serious risk of loose interpretation.
 - As of early December, the draft GBF text currently includes references to NBS. NBS schemes here do not include robust protections for **collective tenure** and **customary rights**, which puts these schemes at risk of enabling one of the largest land grabs in human history.
 - **“Nature positive”** is similarly not a technical term and it has no clear definition or measurement criteria. Suggested indicators point to a biodiversity equivalent of net zero without any no concrete accounting methodology behind it.
- **“Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use” (AFOLU)** is the technical term with existing accounting and reporting methodologies that the UNFCCC uses to refer to a category of activities relevant to land use and biodiversity.
 - **“Ecosystem-based approaches”** is the technical concept, also sometimes referred to as **ecosystems approaches**, that refers to ecosystem restoration and the enhancement of ecosystem services to mitigate the negative impacts of climate change in the CBD.

- AFOLU targets and actions continue to be addressed in **nationally determined contributions (NDCs)** and, as of the beginning of COP15, have fully-separate accounting from fossil fuel emissions reductions accounting.
- **Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs)** is the technical term used in the CBD and GBF to refer to both Indigenous Peoples and local communities as they relate to biodiversity.
 - While this term is in common usage within the CBD process, Indigenous Peoples hold unique rights to their lands and territories under international mechanisms like the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as under national law in some cases.
 - Indigenous Peoples manage about 40 percent of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact ecosystems worldwide, and are legally recognised as owning at least 12 percent of the world's forest area.
 - Less than 2 percent of global climate finance reaches small farmers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities in developing countries.
 - **Rights-based conservation solutions** aim to secure customary tenure, strengthen the self-governance of communities, and deliver direct finance to traditional custodians as a way to protect nature via the communities that already protect biodiversity in their local context in many cases for countless generations.
- **Protected areas and other area-based conservation measures (OECMs)** are the two existing categories for land conservation in the CBD, while calls for a **separate category** to be included in Target 3 refer to traditional or customary lands in an effort to avoid problems that would stem from forcing IPLCs to be one or the other of two prior categories, which has a proven track record of leading to "**fortress conservation**" practices, which include driving IPLCs off their lands.
 - Conservation science currently forces Indigenous land management, knowledge, culture and practices into a limited number of ill-suited definitions.
- **30x30 ("thirty-by-thirty")** refers to a global conservation target to protect at least 30% of the world's land and 30% of seas by 2030. This is a global target, and the text would need to specify what types of protected areas count

towards this target. Crucially, if the draft text does not explicitly include respect for the rights of IPLCs and recognition for IPLCs' critical role in the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, including their **right to prior and informed consent**, it can enable dispossession of IPLC lands. Read more here: [Beyond 30x30 policy briefing](#).

- In some regions, like the Amazon biome or the Indonesian province of West -Papua in Indonesia, there is even a need to go well beyond 30x30 – see, **80x25 in the Amazon**, meaning the Amazon Rainforest needs to be at least 80% protected by 2025. 30x30 is a global minimum target, with some areas needing a much higher level of protection much earlier.
- **Marine protected areas (MPAs)** refer to marine conservation areas.
 - Greenpeace 30x30: A Blueprint for Ocean Protection maps out what that might look like on the high seas, breaking down global oceans – which cover almost half the planet – into 25,000 squares of 100x100 km and mapped the distribution of 485 different conservation features to generate hundreds of scenarios for a planet-wide network of ocean sanctuaries free from human activities that are harmful. On the high seas, 30% is the minimum that is needed to create effective networks of MPAs, which would ideally cover up to 50% ([executive summary](#) and [full report](#))
- The **biodiversity finance gap** refers to a gap in funding between what is currently available for financing global biodiversity protections and what would be necessary to actually deliver and implement protections, estimated to be around USD \$700 billion. The figure does not relate only to public funding contributions, but includes finance from a number of sources.
 - The current draft of the post-2020 GBF suggests that reducing **subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity** by at least US\$500 billion will be critical to closing this gap.
 - Many finance demands that have been proposed to close the biodiversity finance gap include specific calculations for sources of funding from carbon offsets, biodiversity offsets, and NBS.
 - Several donor countries who have announced biodiversity funding commitments refer to a portion of funds that have already been allocated to fight climate change and are hence **double-counting** their contributions.

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