WHAT’S THE WORLD DOING FOR BIODIVERSITY?

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Why this question?

- 1992: Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) opened for signing at the Earth Summit and entered into force in 1993
- 2019: Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) assessment shows that 1 million species of the 8 million known ones threatened with extinction
- 2022: Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) adopted; 23 targets to be met by 2030; 4 goals to be met by 2050
What’s changed?

- Role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) recognised; 7 of the 23 targets specifically mention IPLCs and the need to protect their rights
- Target to mobilize $200 Billion per year
- Target to protect at least 30 per cent of land, water and sea by 2030
- Decision to share benefits from use of digital sequence information
- More measurable outcomes for assessing progress; monitoring framework with specific indicators to be devised
30x30 target for conservation

- Only 16.06 per cent of its land and inland waters and 8.16 per cent of its oceans under protected areas as of February 2024. This increases to 17.24 per cent of land and inland water and 8.28 of marine areas if Other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs) are included.
- Land belonging to indigenous peoples and local communities likely to be included to meet the target; they own over 32 per cent of global land in 87 countries.
Politics of protected areas

- Target could lead to “land-grabbing” in biodiversity-rich areas. This could take away land and livelihoods from 300 million people, many of whom belong to tribal and indigenous communities.
- Protection of land reduces access for communities.
- Requires money: the world would need $103-178 billion annually to increase the coverage of protected areas from current levels to 30 per cent by 2030. This would be an increase of 4.7-7.3 times from the current estimates of expenditures.
- Existing areas have not been effective in safeguarding biodiversity; tools to evaluate the functioning of other effective area based conservation measures also not available.
More than 30% of land is already protected (milestone achieved)
Less than 30% of land protected, but enough habitat remains outside protected areas to reach 2030 target (high potential)
Sum of protected and remaining habitat is 20-30%, can achieve target with some restoration (moderate potential)
Sum of protected and remaining habitat is less than 20% (nature imperiled)

Source: "A Global Deal For Nature: Guiding principles, milestones, and targets", Science Advances, April 2019
Access and benefit sharing

• An assessment by Down To Earth in 2022 found that access and benefit sharing is not working well

• Till November 15, 2022, 25 countries had provided 4,344 internationally recognised certificates of compliance (IRCCs) for access to resources in accordance to CBD guidelines. 3,136 IRCCs issued by India

• Only 1,281 of the total IRCCs are for commercial purposes and have been issued by 16 of the 25 countries
CONFINED IMPACT

Only 25 countries have seen agreements in which native communities are accorded benefits from sharing of biological resources, knowledge

**Number of internationally recognised certificates of compliance (IRCC)**

- Côte d’Ivoire: 1
- Spain: 156
- France: 602
- Republic of Korea: 39
- Vietnam: 36
- Lao People’s Democratic Republic: 16
- Malaysia: 11
- Bulgaria: 3
- Bhutan: 1
- Belarus: 10
- Argentina: 46
- Uruguay: 4
- Peru: 54
- Benin: 20
- Cameroon: 7
- Kenya: 94
- Ethiopia: 1
- South Africa: 46
- Panama: 39
- St. Kitts and Nevis: 2
- Dominican Republic: 5
- Mexico: 8
- Guatemala: 2

Note: *IRCC indicate that agreements are under access and benefit-sharing guidelines set under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol*

*Between 2015 and November 15, 2022 Source: Access and Benefit-sharing Clearing-House
Funds

- Funds generated from use of digital sequence information to add to funds available with Global Biodiversity Framework Fund (GBFF)
- Indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) to receive funds directly to implement projects. 20 per cent of the funds available with GBFF to be made available to IPLCs
- Only a little more than USD200 million available with GBFF as yet. First projects under GBFF likely to be launched ahead of CoP16 scheduled in October 2024
Work in progress...

Thank you