

# RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Directing the Resources from the  
Ecological Debt between the Global  
North-South towards Effective  
Implementation of the Post 2020 -  
Biodiversity Framework



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Directing the resources from the ecological debt between the global north-south towards effective implementation of the Post 2020 – Biodiversity Framework

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## Authors

Alphonse Munyao Muia, Catholic Youth Network for Environmental Sustainability in Africa  
Belta Syovinya, Justice, Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Franciscans Africa (JPIC-FA)  
Fridah Mghazo, JPIC-FA  
Hassan Noor Muhammed, JPIC-FA  
Herman Peshu, JPIC-FA  
Jean Marie Vianney Nikobahoze, JPIC-FA  
Steeven Kezanutima, JPIC-FA

## Group Facilitator

Steeven Kezanutima, JPIC-FA

## Mentor

James Vause, UNEP-WCMC

## Technical Support

Mary Kanyua, UNEP  
Ladu Lemi, UNEP

## Editing and Design

Louise Dorner, UNEP

## YETI Manager

Balakrishna Pisupati, UNEP

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## Disclaimer

The views and opinions expressed here are those of the authors and not that of UNEP or the partner organization.

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## **Resource Mobilization:**

**Directing the resources from the ecological debt between the global north-south towards effective implementation of the Post 2020-Global Biodiversity Framework**

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## List of Acronyms

**ACP**- Africa Caribbean and Pacific

**CBD**- Convention on Biological Diversity

**CDM** - Clean Development Mechanisms

**COP**- Conference of Parties

**GBF**- Global Biodiversity Framework

**GHS** - Green House Gases

**GYBN** - Global Youth Biodiversity Network

**MEAs**- Multilateral Environmental Agreements

**MW** - Megawatts

**NDCS**- Nationally Determined Contributions

**UNFCCC**- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**UN**- United Nations

**UNEP** - United Nations Environment Programme

**U.S** - United States of America

## 1. Introduction

It is with clear certainty from scientific world that environmental crisis has been accelerating at an alarming rate and replicating the real impacts of biodiversity loss to many if not all parts of the planet. Widespread awareness fueled a strong demand for change on the way the global community ought to halt and reverse the spiral of self-destruction given the global nature of the environmental crises in late sixties and early seventies.

In 1972 the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment made a moment in history of catalyzing the necessary environmental action at the international level through the establishment of UNEP and subsequent adoption of many MEAs evolving from the first generation of MEAs which focused on single-use oriented issues and were mainly sectoral agreements to the second generation of MEAs which came after the 1992 UN Convention on Environment and Development in Rio and took a more holistic approach focusing on sustainable development and the sustainable use of natural resources. The 3 MEAs which were adopted in Rio Earth summit are majorly known as Rio conventions and they include;

- The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Member states under the auspices of the CBD meet after every couple of years since 1994 at a Conference of Parties (COP) which serves as the highest decision-making organ of the convention and has overtime designated seats to indigenous people and Local communities women caucus, business, farmers, research organizations and youth organizations under the formal youth engagement mechanism called the GYBN.

Over this period since the CBD entered into force there have been two landmark strategic plans first of which was developed by COP4 and adopted to work through 2002-2010 where parties committed to a more effective and coherent implementation of the 3 objectives of the convention and to achieve by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of biodiversity loss at the global, regional and national level. The most recent strategic plan (2011-2020) was adopted at



COP10 in Nagoya, Japan and contained 20 concrete targets known as Aichi targets. During that decade, the UN declared it a UN Decade on Biodiversity to ramp up support for implementation of the strategic plan.

[Article 25](#) of the Protocol calls for provision of financial assistance to developing country Parties and Parties with economies in transition to effectively implement the Protocol through the financial mechanism of the Convention (paragraphs 2, 3 and 5) and through bilateral, regional and multilateral channels (paragraph 6).

The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol, have recalled the importance of art 25, paragraph 1 of the protocol connecting with art 20 of the convention recalling the need to consider financial resources that will support the implementation part of it; and reaffirmed the commitment made by parties as an obligation and recognize the strategies in the support the three objectives related the Convention encompasses resource mobilization. In this regard, no supplementary financial mechanism should replace the one in the provisions of Article 21 of the Convention and Article 25 of the Nagoya Protocol<sup>1</sup>. (NP-1/7.Resource mobilization for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol).

Despite adoption of very wonderfully crafted strategic plans, the global community achieved a very limited success with most of the goals and targets set expiring being very far from achievement and with intention to adoption of post-2020 global biodiversity framework, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing remains more relevant than ever, (Secretariat of the CBD Montreal, Press release, 2014)<sup>2</sup>.

Going to the third strategic action plan (post 2020 GBF) at this moment of making or breaking the future of biodiversity, the young people from Africa, Pacific and Caribbean demand change. Clear dissection must be done to establish the cause of this colossal failure and from the

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/doc/press/2021/pr-2021-10-29-np-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [Global Biodiversity Outlook 5](#)

perspectives of young people, there is a general feeling that the financial resources meant for implementation are relatively low compared with the ambitions set. The scanty resources available are stashed away and made very inaccessible to the people who are leading local actions. Bottom-up approach in implementation of these strategic action plans must be adopted as still a lot of structures in place use top-down approach which is proven not to deliver the expected results. States should substantially increase mobilization of financial resources from all sources and avoid being indifferent to biodiversity needs, gaps and priorities as investing in nature is not “a question of if we can afford, it is a question of if we can afford not to”.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is an international legally binding treaty with three main goals: conservation of biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity; and the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

The Earth's biological resources are vital to humanity's economic and social development. As a result, there is a growing recognition that biological diversity is a global asset of tremendous value to present and future generations. At the same time, the threat to species and ecosystems caused by human activities has never been so great.

As young people in Environmental Governance, having taken part in this MEAS ACP mentorship program and taking consideration the important propositions in the Convention on Biological Diversity, we realized that there is a need to emphasize on the resource mobilization in order to ensure the effective implementation of the CBD.

As mentees, we support the idea of the move to net zero (emissions). This shall be a great drive of a new form of growth which will be more efficient, productive and will offer greater production to our biodiversity.

This report will inform on background of Convention on Biological Diversity and Global Biodiversity Framework. The explanation on the Global ecological debt between North-South will



be analyzed deeply for readers to understand the issues. Another important point is on the global discussion on resource mobilization and the risks shared by Global North and Global South. This paper offers a clear background information on Biodiversity loss, and divestment of funds from fossil fuels towards renewable energy.

The issue of migrants is also unveiled explaining the crisis of climate refugees' victims, in relation to the Global North - Global South cooperation. The report continually tackles resource mobilization at grassroots level and youth priorities on the CBD.

## **2. Global Discussion on Resource Mobilization**

The political leaders who participated in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity (representing 64 countries from all regions and the European Union), pledged on “united to reverse Biodiversity loss by 2030 for sustainable development” in September 2020.

It is in order to reiterate the will of political leaders, it is recommended to strengthen all financial and non-financial means of implementation, to transform and reform our economic and financial sectors and to achieve the wellbeing of people and safeguard the planet by:

- a) Incentivizing the financial system, nationally and internationally, including banks, funds, corporations, investors and financial mechanisms, to align financial flows to environmental commitments and the Sustainable Development Goals, to take into account the value of nature and biodiversity, promote biodiversity conservation, restoration and its sustainable use in their investment and financing decisions, and in their risk management, as well as including through encouraging the use of taxonomies;
- b) Enhancing the mobilization of resources from all sources, public and private, maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of existing resources and facilitating access to support where needed, in order to significantly scale up support for biodiversity, including through nature-based solutions, which contribute effectively not only to the achievement of

biodiversity and climate goals, but to sustainable development, livelihoods and poverty alleviation where needed;

According to World Resources Institute<sup>3</sup>, one important thing we encourage as it is part the Paris Agreement is on stock taking. Countries agreed on the process for the global stock taking. We consider this as an opportunity to keep our political leaders awake and accountable on matters related National Determined Contributions (NDCs).

The global stock taking is conducted in three phases:

- Information collection and preparation: This phase is an opportunity to gather the information necessary to conduct the stock take, such as NDCs, scientific studies (including from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), country reports (including transparency reports) and tailored national submissions, and other information. The UNFCCC will prepare multiple synthesis reports to inform the technical assessment.
- Technical assessment: This assessment will consist of a series of technical dialogues held over two or three consecutive UN climate conferences. The dialogues will be organized to assess collective progress toward the Paris Agreement's purpose and long-term goals, including under Article 2.1(a-c) of the Agreement, focused around three themes: mitigation, adaptation and means of implementation and support. Other crosscutting themes such as response measures and loss and damage may be considered through the three thematic areas. Co-facilitators of the dialogues will produce summary reports for each of the three thematic areas and provide a cross-cutting factual summary.
- Consideration of outputs: This phase will take place at the COP in the year of the stock take itself (i.e., 2023 and every five years thereafter). During this phase, the findings of the technical assessment will be discussed and presented. This phase will summarize key political messages and identify opportunities for enhancing action and support.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.wri.org/insights/what-expect-climate-and-finance-cop26>

It was timely that this youth report on resource mobilization, a key prerequisite in CBD, was being developed during COP26 conference, hence important to provide our views as relevant to the COP26.

The UN climate summit in Glasgow is a critical crossroad for global collaboration and action on resource mobilization to galvanize global efforts on addressing global biodiversity crisis. This summit more commonly referred to as COP26, was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, held at the Scottish Event Campus Centre in Glasgow, Scotland, United Kingdom, from 31 October to 13 November 2021. Its climate finance agenda will look both to the past and the future as countries make transition into the post-2020 phase of Paris Agreement. Technical processes, scientific reports and expert inputs offer the UNFCCC an opportunity for introspection on whether its objectives and goals are sufficient to meet this historical moment.

COP26's President Alok Sharma vocally supported a ban on coal finance or even all fossil fuel investments. Favorable political decisions emerged from the G7 Summit and the 76th UN General Assembly, in September, including the announcement by Xi Jinping on the Chinese decision to stop building new coal power projects abroad.

It is however underwhelming that there was a “water-down” on the ambitious text to phase out coal, the dirtiest fossil fuel, in the last minutes of COP26 by some few countries to merely “phasing down” and a phaseout of “inefficient” fossil fuel subsidies. It was also clear that poor countries' concerns were not addressed as the Glasgow pact didn't address the loss and damage which is the destruction caused by extreme weather events. Current climate finance is already not consistent with the promises and even if fulfilled would be insufficient to cover the heavy losses.

Finance has the power to reframe what is possible, that is, more urgent action on adaptation and mitigation. As in past negotiations, the atmosphere and tone are also important: recent extreme weather in Germany, China, Russia, the United States, Japan, Madagascar, Cameroon and around the world has demonstrated the reality of shared risks and loss both in the Global North and Global South, therefore the need to act in global solidarity financing the global biodiversity is

urgent, sparking more willingness to move on tough finance issues and thereby catalyze greater climate ambition.

The supreme decision-making bodies of the UNFCCC, the Paris Agreement, and the Kyoto Protocol are part of Glasgow dialogue. Negotiations on climate finance matters are supposed to take place across all three of them.

Chief among these is the annual \$100 billion goal, born at the 2009 Copenhagen Accord, formalized in Cancun in 2010 and affirmed as part of the Paris pact. While only a fraction of the climate finance needed, the \$100 billion goal recognizes that developing countries contribute less to climate change than industrialized nations and often lack the financial resources to make a climate transition on their own. Failure to make progress on this goal would undermine much-needed trust in the Paris Agreement.

What comes after the \$100 billion is the second-highest priority on the climate finance agenda. Parties have several options for launching a process to establish a new, collective, quantified goal for climate finance for the post-2025 period, from a floor of \$100 billion per year, to be agreed by 2024. In doing so, countries can consider the first-ever Needs Determination report of developing countries, published by the Standing Committee on Finance in October 2021.

The Glasgow climate pact required robust climate finance elements and steadfast political signals of commitment to a full, effective implementation of the Paris Agreement. Accessibility, equity and a focus on the just transition are crucial. The needed to prioritize accelerating support to developing countries, especially Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries. With these principles in mind, credible delivery of the \$100 billion to 2025 in climate finance is imperative to pave the way not just to a new goal, but a successful COP26.

Clarity on how much money is in the 'pot' and how fast it will be added to are essential. The quantified climate finance goals under the UNFCCC were ambiguous by design and framed by the political dynamics of the multilateral climate negotiations. It's not easy to assess where we stand today, nor to understand the individual contributions of developed countries to the goal. The

most recent estimates included in the fourth Biennial Assessment and overview of climate finance flows show that global climate finance flows reached an annual average of \$775 billion in the period 2017-2018, an increase of 16% from the period 2015-2016. However, total public finance support from developed to developing countries only grew 2.7% in the same timeframe. Most developed countries have not yet mobilized climate finance in accordance with their fair share.

Through this Framework, countries need to work up and implement resolutions of the Paris Agreements, which are still valid and important.

### **3. Divesting Funds from Fossil Fuel Towards Renewable Energy**

#### **3.1 Clean Energy Implementation**

Putting aside global warming, and climate change, no species consumes as much as the human race; we take more than we need and leave a trail of destruction (rates of consumption being higher than production). Humans pollute water and empty it during oil extraction, but the reality remains that water is life and nobody can drink oil. Our addiction to Fossil Fuel and consuming more than we can produce in destroying our forests makes it impossible to achieve net zero ambition by 2050.

For all projects conducted in environmental domain, the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM) is supposed to be applied in order to prevent any environmental disaster. The CDM is an agreed framework under the Article 12 of Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to assist developing countries to achieve sustainable development while industrialized countries are required to comply with their GHGs emissions reduction commitments.

Therefore, the Kyoto Protocol came up with a clean development mechanism (CDM) and given two objectives: greenhouse gas emission reductions and contribution to sustainable

development in the host country. This an international standard that each registered project should meet.

Actually, all countries should wake up and realize the advantages of investing in renewable energy in terms of saving biodiversity and national economy.

From a research Conducted by Jean Marie Vianney Nikobahoze ( Renewable Energy in Africa<sup>4</sup>, An opportunity in a time of crisis, Ngong Hills power plant case study) from the Office of Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Franciscans Africa, taking example of Kenya, one of the countries growing faster into clean energy, the Government of planned to move the country to 100% green energy and reach a total of 5,040 MW with 85 power plants by 2020, the country looks to triple the number of households connected to its power grid and reach 60% of the population. Currently, 70% of the nation's installed electricity capacity comes from renewable energy sources (Clean energy) (*Press released, www. nation.co.ke.*), and the nation ranks 9<sup>th</sup> in the world for its geothermal power generating capacity of '700 MW' (*Renewables 2018 Global Status Report*) and own the largest wind power producer in Africa 'Lake Turkana wind power' with 310MW as total project installed capacity and the former first largest wind in East Africa 'Ngong Hills wind power' with 26MW installed capacity (Kengen Engineer).

Wind energy is free renewable resource; it is a source of clean and non-polluting electricity. Wind plants emit no air pollutants or greenhouse gases. According to the U.S department of Energy, in 1990, California's wind power plants offset the emission of more than 2.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide, and 15 million pounds of other pollutants that would have otherwise been produced. It would take a forest of 90 million to 175 million trees to provide the same air quality (*Source: Wind Energy Development programmatic, EIS, online public information resource*)

Only on the case of Wind Power Project in Kenya, advantages are:

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<sup>4</sup> <https://womin.africa/fr/blog-new-report-renewable-energy/>



- KenGen directly, national treasure and other shareholders (more than 191,000 investors) indirectly by dividends after selling the energy to Kenya Power. For example, the year ended 30 June 2015 KenGen earned Ksh 25 billion and Ksh18.52 billion for 6 followed months from their projects.
- The combined wind power projects in the country have increased electricity supply by approximately 15%, reduced the reliance on thermal generated electricity, and insulated Kenya from supply constraints during periods of low water level. Indeed, without the wind power projects, the fuel cost charge would have been high as Ksh 5.75/kWh in May 2019 as compared to Ksh 3.75/kWh, the cost that was applied in that particular month.
- Wind power contributes up to 1,500,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent emission reductions every year, which help to fight against climate change.

The above example shows that clean energy can be cheap in the long run, create clean jobs and save biodiversity. By adopting clean energy projects, a country saving money and producing a lot of energy economically.

### 3.2 Divestment by Church Institutions

In Laudato Si, Pope Francis said, ‘enough of the thirst for profit that drives the fossil fuel industry’s destruction of our common home.’”

Five days before the United Nations 26th Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, faith institutions around the world united for the largest-ever joint divestment announcement.

In total, 72 faith institutions<sup>5</sup> from six continents with more than \$4.2 billion of combined assets under management announced their commitment to divest from fossil fuels.

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<sup>5</sup> <https://laudatosimovement.org/2021/10/26/faith-institutions-announce-largest-ever-divestment-ahead-of-cop26/>

Faith leaders from around the world gathered in Glasgow to share how faith communities, which represent some 80 percent of the world's population, can lead the way to a just transition through divesting from fossil fuels.

Faiths are major stakeholders in the financial world and what we as faiths do can send a huge prophetic message and also a substantial financial message.” They have many churches, Mosques, synagogues and temples. They have development centres, learning institutions, health centres and hospitals. They allocate much money in their annual budget to cater for energy. Today as we are challenging political leaders to stop investing in dirty energy, Faith institutions stand in a strong position to lead by action<sup>6</sup>.

As youth in YETI mentorship program, we say that development is not a problem. However, the problem is that it affects right to land, increased capitalism with no fair and transparent arrangements as well as abuse of political power to gain opportunities, all in the name of development. The exploitation of public interest to maximize personal gain is the key problem, hence the fear of the dying spirit of common good.

In decision 14/34, the Conference of the Parties set out the process for developing a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, established the Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework to support this process.

The framework aims to galvanize urgent and transformative action by Governments and all of society, including indigenous peoples and local communities, civil society, and businesses, to achieve the outcomes it sets out in its vision, mission, goals and targets, and thereby to contribute to the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity, its Protocols, and other biodiversity related multilateral agreements, processes and instruments.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://laudatosimovement.org/2021/11/08/cop26-faith-communities-just-transition-en-news/>

It aims to facilitate implementation, which will be primarily through activities at the national level, with supporting action at the subnational, regional and global levels.

The framework is a fundamental contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the same time, progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals will help to create the conditions necessary to implement the framework.

This report is developed by mentees of ACP MEAS 2021 who have been through a mentorship program, focusing on how to enhance the understanding of issues related to CBD, its mandate and what it does, the discussions under the global biodiversity framework, followed by specific engagement on providing inputs, from youth perspective, for the framework. The report will be addressing three priorities:

- Reduce and redirect resources that are causing harm to biodiversity.  
In simple terms, spend less on things that cause damage to our natural systems.
- Generate additional resources for biodiversity-positive outcomes. This means more direct flows of funding for biodiversity from public sector budgets; more viable opportunities for the private sector to invest in biodiversity projects; and maximizing biodiversity co-benefits for related environmental investments, such as nature-based solutions for climate change.
- Enhance effectiveness and efficiency of resource use, in other words do better with what we have.

#### **4. Background Information on Biodiversity Loss**

What is on the global media headlines lately is none other than apocalyptic scenes of the tragic consequences of “unchecked” human activity in an attempt to satisfy endless selfishness and greed, especially the consumerist economic approaches that view nature as a commodity other than a web of life in which humanity is a component.

Written scientific evidence on warnings against human relations with nature goes back to early days of the 20th century as seen in the Otamatea newspaper<sup>7</sup>, and over a century later, more reports are still being released addressing the same issues. (Otamatea,1912, Newspaper).

Biodiversity is certainly the lynchpin on which our own survival solely depends and that the world ecological system has been kept in balance through a very complex and multifaceted interaction between a huge number of species. The rapid extinction currently witnessed is therefore likely to precipitate collapses of ecosystems at a global scale from unsustainable food production and pressures on natural forests on the terrestrial ecosystems to the reckless industrialized fishing that is ravaging countless species of aquatic organisms.

While science shows that we should lose 8 species every 100 years due to natural selection, we are now losing over 500 species annually because of the immense pressures since the post-industrial era began.

According to Prof Nicholas Stern in the Guardian<sup>8</sup>, economists have failed to account of the immense risks and potential loss of lives that could occur as result of climate crisis.

Political action has been slow since 2006 because of the idea that climate action cuts economic growth and because of the global financial crisis.

Rich countries give aid to poor countries, an estimated \$130 billion every year<sup>9</sup>. However, according to the Global Financial Integrity, the rich corporations are taking more than \$900 billion out of the poor countries each year through tax avoidance. On top of that, poor countries are paying \$600 billion in debt service to rich countries on loans, the principal for which has already been paid off many times over. Furthermore, the trade rules that favor the Global North cost the Global South about \$500 billion a year. (Global Financial Integrity, 2020, Publication)

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.sciencealert.com/a-newspaper-from-1912-predicted-the-future-consequences-of-burning-coal>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2021/oct/26/climate-crisis-economists-grossly-undervalue-young-lives-warns-stern>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uWSxzjyMNpU>

That is about \$2 trillion dollars a year flowing from some of the impoverished countries of the Global South to the Countries with advanced economies.<sup>10</sup>

The costs of inaction on climate is still far greater than the costs of action and the climate crisis is the biggest market failure in history.

## **5. Ecological Debt Between Global North and Global South Context**

The present societal use of resources lack of sustainable aspect, just because the ones involved in carrying activities do not feel the effects of the costs.

The situation is that majority of rich countries who over-exploit the global commons owe an ecological debt to those in poor countries who are owner of resources. It is unfair that the poor countries are benefiting very little of their legitimate share of the global commons, while from the last century the North has been enjoying a lot with accumulation of richness, building their industry cheaply and rapidly, which have left the Global south polluted and poor.

The first discussions on the ecological debt concept took place around 1990, and during the Rio Summit in 1992, the idea of a Debt Treaty was proposed, which introduced the notion of an ecological debt in contraposition to the external debt. While no official definition of ecological debt exists, Accion Ecologica <sup>11</sup>(1999) defined it as “The debt accumulated by northern industrial countries towards third world countries on account of resource plundering and use of environmental space to deposit wastes”.

In 2009 the Centre for Sustainable Development (CDO) at Ghent University (see Paredis et al. 2009) proposed as a working definition:

- (1) “The ecological damage caused over time by a country in other countries or to ecosystems beyond national jurisdiction through its production and consumption patterns”

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<sup>10</sup> [Trade-Related Illicit Financial Flows in 135 Developing Countries: 2008-2017](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Ecological Debt](#)

(2) “The exploitation or use of ecosystems (and its goods and services) over time by a country at the expense of the equitable rights to these ecosystems by other countries”.

Africa is home to 8 of the world’s 34 biodiversity hotspots- the most biologically rich places in the world, hosting many endemic or threatened species. Eight of the 34 biodiversity hotspots identified around the world are in Africa, according to the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). Among the most threatened in Africa, IPBES singles out Madagascar and the Indian Ocean islands. About 1 million species are threatened with extinction, and many more will be lost in the coming decades, according to IPBES, unless action is taken to reduce the intensity of the drivers of biodiversity loss. A continent which has maintained its pristine state for so long and still with areas that are free from human civilization, biodiversity loss and loss of other natural resources has continued to exacerbate wars, droughts and famine, poverty, gender parity and adulteration of culture. Countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific suffer even more unique ordeals with some of them having an expiry date of the places they call home due to the imminent sea level rise.

As is mentioned by Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* #51: *“Inequity affects not only individuals but entire countries; it compels us to consider an ethics of international relations. A true “ecological debt” exists, particularly between the global north and south, connected to commercial imbalances with effects on the environment, and the disproportionate use of natural resources by certain countries over long periods of time. The export of raw materials to satisfy markets in the industrialized north has caused harm locally, as for example in mercury pollution in gold mining or sulphur dioxide pollution in copper mining. There is a pressing need to calculate the use of environmental space throughout the world for depositing gas residues which have been accumulating for two centuries and have created a situation which currently affects all the countries of the world. The warming caused by huge consumption on the part of some rich countries has repercussions on the poorest areas of the world, especially Africa, where a rise in temperature, together with drought, has proved devastating for farming. There is also the damage caused by the export of solid waste and toxic liquids to developing countries, and by the pollution produced by companies which operate in less developed countries in ways they could never do at home, in the countries in which they*



*raise their capital: “We note that often the businesses which operate this way are multinationals. They do here what they would never do in developed countries or the so-called first world. Generally, after ceasing their activity and withdrawing, they leave behind great human and environmental liabilities such as unemployment, abandoned towns, the depletion of natural reserves, deforestation, the impoverishment of agriculture and local stock breeding, open pits, riven hills, polluted rivers and a handful of social works which are no longer sustainable”.*

Countries of the global north have a big role to play not only in financing Biodiversity conservation in global south but also refunding the debt related to the exploitation of poor countries since slavery and colonization. Today natural resources exploited by multinational entities have made countries poorer instead of enriching them, e.g.: Oil in South Sudan, in Virunga National Park of DRC and rare metals which are at the centre of manufacturing renewable energy equipment etc., and this has caused extinction of millions of species and increased destitution to the already poorest of the poor as well as putting their health in great jeopardy.

The ecological debt concept focuses on the lack of political power of poor regions and countries. The debt arises from: exports of raw materials and other products from poor countries or regions being sold at prices without minding compensation for local or global externalities;

It is all about rich countries or regions making disproportionate use of environmental space or services without payment (for instance, to dump carbon dioxide). Ecological debt tends to be a public debt a country has towards other countries or can also be used to calculate a liability from a private company or a debt a nation has towards future generations (generational debt).

The notion of ecological debt dares to open sensitive discussion around politic and ethic. At what period should we start calculating the debt? The approach to pay this debt should be taken as socio-justice action. One should that it is an injustice to the present generation that we should pay for the debts of past generations, and if we do not take responsibility for the debt of past generations, nobody else to do it.

Regarding its methodology, this concept of ecological debt gets objection with point of monetizing nature's services which is not an agreement amongst researchers or campaigners.

They do not agree on calculation of the ecological debt, to estimate the value of the environment which are difficult to make, for reasons of uncertainties, incomparable impacts, limited substitutability between natural and human-made capital, arbitrariness of the discount rate and ethics barriers).

Theoretically, it may be possible to put a money value on ecological debt by calculating the value of the environmental and social externalities associated with historic resource extraction and adding an estimated value for the share of global pollution problems borne by poor countries as the result of higher consumption levels in rich ones. This includes efforts to value the external costs associated with climate change. Such monetary accounts (Goemmine and Paredis, 2010; and Srinivasan et al. 2008) might be useful to ecological debt campaigners from civil society.

Therefore, the ecological debt concept, sheds a new light on our understanding of ‘sustainable development’, by recognizing power justice and to reveal the control over resources and pollution burdens as an issue of power relations. The concept has the potential to help the implementation of sustainability and to fight environmental injustices.

This ecological debt should be cleared and be allocated to implementation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework as this should be taken as a moment to focus on eco-friendly practices and a focus on the real needs of the poor. Today, around the globe some countries adopted solutions <sup>12</sup>related to ecologic dept of which the world leaders improve to be a global strategy. For example, China, Costa Rica, and Mexico, have initiated large-scale programmes in which landowners receive payment for furthering biodiversity conservation, carbon sequestration, landscape amenities, and hydrological services. A system could be aimed at reducing fragmentation of an ecosystem but has to check that it does not lead to an increase in disease transmission among populations; it could be aimed to improve a habitat for birds even while increasing the watershed’s supply of other ecosystem services; its purpose could be to

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[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/957292/Dasgupta\\_Review\\_-\\_Abridged\\_Version.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/957292/Dasgupta_Review_-_Abridged_Version.pdf)

increase both carbon sequestration and hydrological services; it could be designed to reduce local poverty while promoting Nature conservation; and so on.

As it stated in the Dasgupa Review *“Biodiversity means the diversity of life. In Chapter 2, it is shown that biodiversity resembles diversity in the portfolios held by manufacturers and financial companies, and that it does so in two ways. First, biodiversity is akin to the complementarities among inputs in factory production, meaning that all inputs are significant in production. Second, biodiversity plays the same role in natural capital as diversity does in financial portfolios: it reduces variability (uncertainty) in yield. For many people the diversity of life has value independent of human wants and needs, but we will find that it pays to build the study of biodiversity’s value from an anthropocentric perspective and then add non-anthropocentric perspectives to give further urgency to repairing our relationship with Nature”*.

The role of biodiversity has been important for factories to be able to complete their production. It is also important in natural capitals and raw materials, in other word biodiversity plays an Alpha and Omega role in all industrial activities. The above is a proof of why it matters a lot and loss of biodiversity should be a serious concern to all. In stressing the obligations of helping the most affected countries in Global south, the encyclical fills a large gap in discussions of climate policy, which are replete with statements of what should be done but tend to lack a convincing moral framework for explaining where such obligations come from or why they should be accepted when they conflict with particular interests.

## **6. Risks between the Global North and the Global South**

This paper emphasizes on the shared expected risks between the Global North and Global South because it seems like the voice of the people in Global South (who are the most affected by effects of climate change) does not receive the required attention for quick action to be done.

The Global North countries have not prioritized the real needs of the poor. Perhaps it is because, as Pope Francis says, the culture of prosperity deadens human conscience with hyper-

consumerism. Or maybe, it is because many countries are trying to strengthen their economy with unlimited accumulation of wealth and financial speculation. This has taken away their focus towards the real needs of the countries in the Global South. [The Laudato Si Encyclical](#)<sup>13</sup> describes this as the economy of exclusion and inequality, lack of fair market, which favors those that already have enormous material wealth and power.

At the present, one can see in many locations across the Global South a pattern of neo-colonial relations. Natural and human resources continue to be exploited through monocultures for cash-producing exports, mining projects, and fossil fuel business. Rainforest is being cut down to make room for oil palm production, cocoa, beef cattle and soybeans to feed the voracious appetite of the rich countries for meat. One example is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). In 2009, the DRC had an estimated \$24 trillion in untapped mineral deposits, including the world's largest reserves of coltan and significant quantities of the world's cobalt. Those rare and precious elements are necessary for the production of smartphones, tablets, computers and all items of high technology. And yet, the Democratic Republic of Congo is the poorest country in the world. Its 91 million people live mostly on less than \$1 a day.

To understand the present, we need to examine the history of that country<sup>14</sup>. In the span of the Congo Free State, from 1885 to 1908 under the rule of Belgian king Leopold II, about 10 million Congolese died – half the population of that country. Leopold II skillfully convinced other nations and public opinion that he was a benevolent king who was bringing civilization to the heart of Africa. But the reality was different. The king and his country drew enormous profits from the exploitation of rubber, ivory and other resources from Congo. (Steven P. Johnson, 2014, p.30)

That pattern of colonial exploitation set the stage for more abuses of power that followed up to the present age.

People in the West often put blame for deep poverty on the corruption of the local leaders in Africa. When you put aside the colonial history, it becomes easy to see what is wrong in the

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<sup>13</sup> [https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

<sup>14</sup> <https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2641&context=honorstheses1990-2015>

Global South countries (Easy to see a speck in the brother's eye and not a wooden beam in one's own). However, apart from experiencing tough moments of climate change and its effects, these countries have not yet recovered from the historical colonial injustice, the lack of leadership of integrity, strong and independent structures that can bargain with equal power with the American and European companies which most of time evade taxation and this becomes a room for corruption.

Over the last decades, many countries in the global North have exploited the precious minerals and other valuable resources found on the African continent. At the same time, Africa countries continually move deeper in a cycle of vulnerabilities. At this time, arms are circulated within some African countries and political corruption erupts. In such situations of social breakdown, armed rebel groups in countries like the DRC take advantage of the situation, sowing more violence and chaos. Hundreds of thousands of women in the mineral rich part of DRC have become victims of their genocidal rape.

These and other nameless victims of the economy of exclusion and the invisible tyranny of neo-colonial policies, which adds to the burden of debts and the Global South sinks further in vulnerability and poverty.

At the market, developing countries buy phones and other products at expensive prices, enriching the multinational corporations. Ironically, these countries are the owners of raw materials. In the Global South entails malnourished, poor and vulnerable people. But the youth can become the source of change by advocating for conscientious consumption, by advocating in support of policies that would replace unbalanced rates of consumption and make the globalization of solidarity to be a reality.

In Africa, the lack of access to clean, drinkable water is depriving children, especially girls, of their education, health, hope and sometimes, even life itself. Around the world, waterborne diseases kill 3.4 million people every year. Forty-three percent of those deaths are of children under 5 years old. In Uganda, 28 million people lack access to clean, safe drinking water. It's a huge barrier that keeps families from lifting themselves out of poverty. More than 70% of all diseases treated

in Uganda are a consequence of a lack of clean water; 25% of students in that country drop out of school because of water-related illness.

Keeping business as usual, delaying action that would address the climate emergency will push the earth over the tipping point. With temperatures soaring, large parts of the Global South are at risk of becoming uninhabitable. Billions of people the vast majority in the Global South would be denied their fundamental right to life.

## **7. Migration from the Global South to the Global North**

Once the above detailed adverse situations happen in the Global South, the Global North should be prepared for migrants moving from the South to the North. So far, the increasing number of migrants and refugees who are leaving the African continent and other regions of the Global South is directly related to the history of colonialism, structural injustice, extreme poverty, climate change and violent conflicts. That is why current issues of migrants have been at the table of global debate. From this one aspect, it is important to realize how much problems created in the Global South will have an equal impact in the Global North.

Young people in Africa and many other countries of the Global South see no future for themselves. Many of them lack adequate education and the basic opportunities to have a job, food, and a roof overhead. Millions live in unsafe and unstable environments as the consequence of the conflicts mostly fueled by the countries of the Global North. Gold, diamonds, coltan, various valuable minerals, crude oil, timber, and other natural resources from Africa move freely north to enrich already-wealthy counties. Yet, millions of desperate so-called migrants who exercise their right to life and seek shelter in Europe or the United States are being denied their right to life.



Moreover, as a recent article from the New York Times reports<sup>15</sup>, U.S. petrochemical companies are using their influence in trade negotiations to force Kenya and other East African countries to become their dumping ground for plastic waste.

The unmet needs of the people in the Global South have been a continuous situation that has caused harm to people's lives. Climate change and poverty are intricately connected. Increased droughts, rising temperatures, more erratic rainfall, flooding, and disease will disproportionately affect those living in dire poverty, especially in impoverished and developing nations, and will increase global inequity. In poor communities and countries, people are compelled to live on hillsides, in spite of the imminent danger of landslides, and on coastal lands that are at high risk of being inundated by rising water.

More than a third of the world's people live within 62 miles of a shoreline. Rising sea levels are affecting Bangladesh, one of the world most populated countries.

The [Catholic Relief Service](#), "Living on the Edge of Climate Change" series<sup>16</sup>, details how the changing environment is affecting the world most vulnerable.

When the poor farmers lose a crop to drought or a home to flooding, they do not have insurance or any other help available to them. After a flood, they cannot easily access clean water, or medicine to fight flood-related disease. In addition, as many as 1.8 billion people could be living in a water-scarce environment by 2080. Africa alone has more than 650 million people dependent on rain-fed agriculture who live in environments already affected by water scarcity and land degradation. If this trend is accelerated by climate change, two-thirds of the region's arable land could be lost by 2025 and, with it, the livelihoods of millions of smallholder farmers. Rain-fed agriculture in Africa could drop by half in 2020.

This [video](#)<sup>17</sup> demonstrates the Impacts, on Climate Change Affects Africa.

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<sup>15</sup> [Big Oil Is in Trouble. Its Plan: Flood Africa With Plastic.](#)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.crs.org/stories/climate-refugees-bangladesh-chad>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=li3x-ntlq4s>

Nature is the base rock in development in all aspects, which includes social, political, psychological and economic. Therefore, this calls for environmental management in an effort to achieve a harmonious society from all aspects of growth and development as stated above.

The influence of nature and its implications is mostly overlooked as far as economic development is concerned. Focus is mostly on profit making that we overlook the implication such economic developments are likely to have to the environment. For example, when putting up a business or a company in an area people tend to overlook the cost of the business or the company to the environment as well as the implication it will have to the business/company and the society.

Looking at the effect the Chernobyl nuclear power plant had on the whole area of Chernobyl after its explosion we should learn from such an incident and be in a position to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment of the businesses/company is likely to have to the environment. From such assessments, measures should be put in place to mitigate or do away with the risks the environment is likely to suffer from such economic initiatives.

Some of the risks cannot be preempted as the effects are seen with time. In such instances such businesses and companies should have measures in place to carry out assessment from time to time the same way assessments are done in assessing the successes of businesses and companies to assess the changes in the risk the business/ company poses to the environment and nature at large. Such mid assessment should inform the investors on the measures to take to address the newly discovered risks and effects that their investments pose to nature.

As long as the investors have an obligation to carry out an assessment of the effect their investment will likely have on the environment, the community should be involved so that the public is aware and is involved in such practices as well as establishing measures that will best work for everyone and nature too. Even if the investors are likely to create employment by their investment, the effect of their investment is likely to have a toll effect on their workers, which will reflect in their profit margins. For example, putting up a coal power plant, which will expose the surrounding community and the workers to emissions that are likely to cause health hazards such as cancer and breathing complications. As a result of this, the workers and the surrounding

community will spend much of their time seeking medical attention and therefore putting less time into work.

When carrying out assessment before putting up an investment, the assessment should be long-term and short-term and so should be the measures put down to address any effects likely to result from the investment.

Some countries of the Global North are larger consumers than others in chocolate, fossil fuel etc. However, the more the extraction is done and the more lands are destroyed, the more agriculture is threatened by the work of multinationals small by small, the resources will be over. At a certain point that business will stop and the Global North will suffer. Countries of the Global South need one day to agree and harmonize high taxes at regional level or continental level, and this will make the Global North pay.

## **8. Resource Mobilization at Grassroots Level.**

This report has been emphasizing on why resource mobilization is at the center of making post 2020 GBF an implementable document and solutions to the underserved countries most of which have vast degraded ecosystems.

We need to put our efforts at the grassroots level by funding the Grassroots organizations since they have been a central strategy of almost every major social and economic transformation. This is a fact that we cannot ignore as far as our environment is concerned. Our goal should be channeling our resources to the grassroots organizations that are best equipped to transform our financial support into a healthier planet, backed by a resilient community of people committed to protecting it. The most persuasive reason for funding grass-roots organizations as a strategy to achieve environmental victories in public policy and public opinion is quite simple: mobilized and organized communities can challenge power and create lasting change with ripple effects that benefit us all. We need to identify the grassroots organizations that strive tirelessly to ensure betterment of our environment and fund them.

To tackle the issue of corruption especially at the grassroots level, these organizations need to identify and be clear on every individual and the role they play. A limited number of individuals for a grassroots level group is better to avoid many channels that lead to long decision-making processes in a case of a grassroots level with many people. Again, they need to consider reliable individuals who are passionate about the environment; they can also be trusted during funding. This will be an easier way to tackle the problem of corruption cases and funds falling in the wrong hands.

According to the concept of Convention on Biological Diversity demands, these grassroots groups help identify cases of pollution and sources that are harmful to our ecosystem, therefore they know best on how to tackle them. They can also adopt educational strategies such as educating people at the grassroots level on how to care for our environment. For instance, education on environmental conservation in the ghetto communities and families. Educating children in the rural and ghetto areas on how to better our environment is a good starting point for the best future environment, which is good for our ecosystem. If we can adopt this by ensuring children start by knowing environmental conservation techniques, and how to apply them so that they also pass it to their next generation.

Policies to be passed on corporate social responsibility in environmental management and protection where corporate institutions will be required to have environmentally friendly policies as well as set aside funds and contribute towards environmental management, protection and upgrading.

In case policies are passed, where some money or revenue is collected from the environment, such as milk, food products, allocated to environmental conservation, at least there will be some funds to help in implementation of Biodiversity conservation.

The same way corporations have social responsibility, we can have corporate social responsibility. They should also have corporate Biodiversity responsibility whereby corporate institutions should have policies that are environmentally friendly, policies to set aside funds allocated to environmental conservation.

Same way in supermarkets there are contributions where clients put the least of their change or remaining, there should be a section where they can put little related contributions allocated to Biodiversity conservation.

This could be another way of gathering local based resources, where people can contribute more in implementing post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.

The theory of environmental conservation is possible if we start at the grassroots level, making it easier to observe our ecosystem as a positive result.

## **9. Resource Mobilization and Youth Priority**

The main question for young people in environmental Governance has been how can they access resources in a less bureaucratic way to implement our biodiversity conservation projects?

This rightly fits in the three pillars of ensuring that biodiversity is conserved, it is used in a more sustainable manner and increases fairness and equitable sharing of the benefits from genetic resources.

Well, it is important to focus our efforts towards achieving one common goal and create a better environment for us and for coming generations.

The attention should be oriented to youth organizations liberation from governmental systems and selective criteria. Youth are empowered but can't get funds for their own initiatives, to get funds your initiative must meet government plans and national politics.

We should focus our efforts on creating transformative education. The point here is especially with today's technology. In that, the emphasis goes on educating people on how technology is affecting our climate change ecosystems and biodiversity. This way, technology shall be used to contribute to better our environment. Technology should help in raising resources and to manage them and also ensure protection of our Biodiversity. Therefore, environmental education is key.

To support the implementation of the post-2020 framework, Governments and private institutions should allocate funds for youth biodiversity initiatives as an additional force to mobilize all sources available.

Some multilateral or bilateral development banks have adopted strategies to finance projects with climate and biodiversity co-benefits but no specific amount is raised for that cause to make a considerable impact. It should be a considerable amount and incorporated in the CBD framework. The financial gap is still enormous for the effective implementation of the biodiversity framework and the youth involvement demand.

A simple and flexible strategy is needed to scale up the contribution in terms of financial mobilization for the organization and companies responsible of Biodiversity harm with reference to targets 12 and 14 of the zero draft.

Young generations require much understanding of CBD framework and Empowerment as they contribute to large numbers of active people in the National Biodiversity Strategic and Action Plan.

## **10. Financial Policy to Fund the GBF**

Given that this is a YETI is a youth program and the youth are the ones taking concrete actions in environmental governance, we recommend a new type of coalition building a strategic advocacy. A coalition of like-minded politicians, administrators, bureaucrats, professionals, academics, civil society, and activist would influence an imprudent minister or a chairperson to take right decisions to allocate enough funds from the National annual budget to help on implementation of global biodiversity. Evidence-and knowledge-based strategic advocacy should focus resource mobilization to implement the global biodiversity.

It is recommended to have policies in countries where a percentage of revenue collected from farm produce and animals (tourism as well as products such as meat n milk) will be set aside for it to be used in environmental protection and improvement.



A whole range of policies are needed including carbon pricing regulation, reform of capital market, enough finance to fund the cost of carbon transition on developing countries.

## 11. Conclusion

Looking at the above arguments about the CBD, our topic on the ecological debt, is relevant to the three priorities of the resource mobilization agenda, and these are: reduce and redirect resources that are causing harm to biodiversity, generate additional resources for biodiversity-positive outcomes, enhance effectiveness and efficiency of resource use. While there are many ways of mobilizing resources, the ecological debt remains an important resource to consider.

The solution to the ecological debt should be in terms of compensation payments for historic damage to biodiversity.

We do not prescribe the mechanism for this, as developing such a mechanism is beyond the scope of this paper. However, options could include the use of trade policy instruments which effectively transfer the costs of restoring ecosystems and transitioning to more sustainable production methods from producers in the Global South to consumers in the Global North, or the cancellation of financial debts (from the Global South to the Global North) in exchange for the cancellation of ecological debt (from the Global North to the Global South).

Going forward, the ecological debt must not be allowed to rise, which means that policies must be put in place to avoid this, and the additional costs of producing without damage to the natural world should be paid by those demanding the outputs; any losses in biodiversity that are accepted (by the producer country) must be compensated for, again with the cost of compensation falling on those ultimately benefitting from the damage.

South-South cooperation will be important to deliver this as this will ensure no country trying to protect its natural environment in the interests of current and future generation of citizens across the world will be placed at a competitive disadvantage in global supply chains by doing so.

The GBF stands to be an opportunity to mitigate the biodiversity loss that has increased due to the failure to implement the Paris Agreement that was signed on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

To the global level, we are giving a wake-up call reminding that nobody is safe until everyone is safe. Paying the ecological costs will be another way of funding implementation of the framework.

Countries of the Global South should come up with policies protecting people especially indigenous communities as well as protecting environmental resources.

Good governance and environmental governance are at the heart of implementation of good solutions. Issues of corruption and dictatorship are to be banned in countries in order to experience real environmental justice.

Once enough awareness is done, it will be possible for people to develop local funding through various initiatives. BIOFIN (Biodiversity Finance Initiative) methodology can be a reference approach for different sectors to maximize sources of revenues.



### ACP MEAs Programme

The ACP MEAs is a joint UNEP- EU-FAO-OACPS partnership programme. It aims to build the capacity of 79 countries in Africa, Caribbean, and the Pacific to fulfil their obligations to multilateral environmental agreements. Phase III (ACP MEAs 3) of this programme is being implemented in Africa by the African Union Commission (AUC), Abidjan Convention and Nairobi Convention, in the Caribbean by the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and Cartagena Convention, in the Pacific by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). The European Environmental Bureau (EEB) is the civil society partner.



United Nations Environment Programme  
P.O. Box 30552  
Nairobi, 00100, Kenya  
Tel: (+254) 20 7621234  
E-mail: [publications@unep.org](mailto:publications@unep.org)  
Web: [www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org)