

**Outline for the public hearing organised by the Committee on
Economic Cooperation and Development on
“Global biodiversity conservation –
effects of the new CBD framework
on the German government’s actions”
on Wednesday, 25 January 2023
from 10:30 hrs to 13:00 hrs
at the German Bundestag, Jakob Kaiser Building, Room JKH 1.302**

Background

Biodiversity loss is the second major ecological crisis of our times, alongside the climate crisis. The loss of species and ecosystems has far exceeded the planetary boundaries: of the eight million animal and plant species worldwide, one million are at risk of extinction. At the 15th UN Biodiversity Conference, held in Montreal from 7 to 19 December, a biodiversity framework was negotiated and adopted (the CBD framework). This must now be given substance and implemented both nationally and internationally.

Species loss is a global crisis and requires global responses. Many biodiversity hotspots are located in countries in the Global South. However, these countries often lack the necessary resources to foster nature and species conservation. Biodiversity conservation must therefore also be supported within the framework of development cooperation. In addition, coherent cross-ministerial action is needed to enhance biodiversity conservation and to minimise negative impacts on the Global South as a result of German and European measures.

The challenge when it comes to establishing new and protecting existing nature conservation areas is ensuring that the local population is involved and the human rights of all local stakeholders are respected. What regulations are needed to enable German development cooperation to act as a trailblazer in this area in future?

Aims of the hearing

- Analysis and classification of the decisions taken in Montreal and their significance for the German government’s actions.
- Sharing of information about the work taking place in international bodies, commissions and working groups that are dealing with the implementation of the agreement.
- Reports and assessments on how the interests of developing countries in general, and of indigenous and local communities in particular, can be considered in a binding manner in the implementation process.

- Suggestions and ideas regarding what approaches have been developed by governments, the scientific community, business, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) active in the fields of development cooperation and environmental protection, and human rights organisations, in both the Global North and the Global South, with regard to requirements and suitable measures to implement the decisions.
- Information about flagship projects from the Global South regarding biodiversity conservation.

Thematic structure of the hearing

There will be two parts, each lasting 75 minutes.

Part I: What do the decisions taken in Montreal mean for German development cooperation?

Key questions:

- What conclusions can be drawn from the new CBD framework with regard to the financing of global biodiversity conservation? What might an appropriate contribution by Germany look like? How can this be achieved, and where are there opportunities for German engagement, outside of financial participation and going beyond the CBD framework?
- What substantive tasks does the CBD framework assign to donor countries with regard to supporting developing countries?
- What concrete measures can be taken to enhance interministerial cooperation on the protection of species and ecosystems?
- What might interministerial cooperation within the Federal Government to implement the pledges on international biodiversity financing look like?
- How can German development cooperation contribute, at multilateral level and through bilateral cooperation with partner countries, to the implementation of the Montreal decisions? What German development cooperation projects in the field of biodiversity could offer lessons learned, whether positive or negative, for other stakeholders?
- How can climate action and environmental protection be looked at together and implemented effectively?
- How can the topic of biodiversity conservation be taken into account as a cross-cutting issue in German development cooperation and within the Federal Government, in order to achieve coherence in key areas (such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, education)? How does this take place in multilateral cooperation?
- How can it be verified and ensured that German development cooperation is aligned with the new CBD framework?
- What existing implementation plans and strategies by governmental or non-governmental stakeholders, multinational organisations, etc., can serve as a model, including in the framework of the 2030 Agenda?
- What is the role of private stakeholders, including from the business community?

- What means are there to measure the effectiveness of the chosen approaches? What indicators need to be established?
- How can the traditional knowledge of local and indigenous communities be integrated into German development cooperation, in order to foster sustainable land and sea use which promotes biodiversity?
- How are indigenous communities' rights over lands and human rights considered in German development cooperation measures to conserve biological diversity, and how can these rights be reinforced in future?

Part II: How can the global goal of conserving biodiversity be implemented with the involvement of governments, those directly affected, and other stakeholders in the Global South?

Key questions:

- What influence do international donors (government development cooperation, international NGOs) have on the design of protected areas, in light of complex political conditions (fragile states, corruption, armed conflicts or similar issues) and conflicts of interest on the ground (commercial use, organised crime, poaching, illegal logging or mining, forest utilisation by the local population, indigenous communities, international donors, etc.)?
- How can the Montreal decisions be implemented on the ground by or in partnership with the indigenous/local population? How can their interests be considered appropriately and from an early stage? What support do they need so that they can develop conservation strategies? How can it be ensured that ILO Convention 169 is applied in a binding manner?
- In concrete terms, how can benefit-sharing arrangements be designed in the interests of those affected?
- What role do legal certainty and rights over lands for indigenous communities play with regard to biodiversity conservation?
- What alternative conservation approaches exist, and what political and legal conditions do they require (participatory planning, community management, strengthening of indigenous rights over lands, etc.)?
- The tension between nature conservation and human rights: What human rights violations take place in the management of protected areas, how can the situation be improved, and what mechanisms come into play if human rights violations take place?
- In what ways are private-sector approaches a suitable means of achieving conservation goals, e.g. in the context of the sustainable management of protected areas? What incentives are there at national and international level to encourage active engagement by the private sector?
- In what ways can innovative financing models, such as funds and foundations, contribute to the sustainable financing of conservation strategies?
- What are effective incentives for the financial sector, with the aim of ensuring that private and public investment seeks to conserve and promote biodiversity?