



Standing strong for biodiversity
-Our demands for CBD COP17-

Content

1. Tropical Forests and Biodiversity.....2

2. Sustainable agriculture and biodiversity..... 4

3. IP&LC and Biodiversity 6

4. Gender and Biodiversity 8

5. Funding for biodiversity 10

6. Recognition and implementation of the rights of nature 12

In the following paper, we discuss the current state and urgent relevance of global biodiversity conservation and make specific demands to CBD COP17.

Introduction to COP17

Under the presidency of Armenia, the 17th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP17) will take place in Yerevan in October 2026. Four years after the adoption of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and four years before the target year of 2030, it is clear that the gap between the internationally agreed biodiversity targets and their actual implementation must be closed. COP17, therefore, represents a crucial turning point for making the transition from setting targets to consistent implementation. Key priorities must include securing adequate and reliable funding, implementing and further developing national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), effectively monitoring progress, and ensuring the equal participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

As a major industrialised nation and a long-standing supporter of the international protection of biodiversity and tropical forests, Germany bears a special responsibility. Particularly in view of dwindling funds for international cooperation, the German Government must send a clear signal at COP17 in support of ambitious multilateral cooperation and help to ensure that the commitments of the global biodiversity framework are translated into concrete measures and sufficient financial resources.

1. Tropical Forests and Biodiversity

What is at stake?

Tropical forests are among the most ecologically diverse ecosystems on Earth and are of central importance for the conservation of global biodiversity. They also fulfil key functions in climate regulation, local livelihoods and global ecosystem services. Despite conservation efforts, they remain under severe threat: according to the World Resources Institute's Global Forest Watch, 4.3 million hectares of primary rainforest were lost in the tropics in 2025, primarily due to deforestation for agriculture, raw material extraction and illegal logging. The CBD aims to halt and reverse the loss and degradation of tropical forests by promoting the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of forest ecosystems, expanding protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, tackling the causes of biodiversity loss, and strengthening the rights and participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

The outlook for COP17 and beyond is shaped by the urgent need to implement the targets of the KMGBF, in particular reducing the loss of areas with high biodiversity to 'close to zero' (Target 1), the restoration of at least 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems (Target 2), the conservation and sustainable management of at least 30 per cent of land areas (Target 3), and halting species extinction and protecting genetic diversity (Target 4). These targets are specifically negotiated in the Programme of Work on Forest Biodiversity and in the NBSAPs of the parties, with discussions focusing on financing mechanisms (e.g. the Global Environment Facility), indicators for measuring success and the involvement of indigenous peoples as key actors in forest conservation.

What is OroVerde doing about this?

At OroVerde, we are committed to the protection and sustainable use of tropical forests and ecosystems through specific projects and measures, as well as through lobbying and advocacy work. Our work aims to protect forests from deforestation, degradation and land grabbing, conserve biodiversity, restore degraded areas, involve local communities and indigenous peoples in conservation efforts, and strengthen the rights of forests and the people who live in them. Through our projects, we make an active contribution to the implementation of the global biodiversity targets. For instance, the Draft Global Report on Collective Progress in the Implementation of the KMGBF cites the BioFin-Cas project as a positive example for biodiversity conservation.

Our demands

- Measures to combat deforestation in NBSAPs: NBSAPs must prioritise the protection of existing forests and the prevention of deforestation. This requires concrete, specific and verifiable measures. In particular, land-use considerations should be fully integrated into national policies and planning frameworks, and effective regulations should be adopted and enforced against the conversion of forests. At the same time, these measures must be aligned with national climate change mitigation and development strategies to avoid conflicting policy incentives and ensure the coherent protection of both climate and biodiversity.
- Conservation beyond protected areas: The conservation of biodiversity must not be restricted solely to designated protected areas. Particularly in productively used landscapes, such as agricultural and forestry systems, biodiversity-friendly management practices must be promoted, and existing incentives for practices harmful to nature and forests must be phased out. These include, for example, agroforestry and other diversified farming systems, reduce pesticide use, the conservation of natural habitats within production landscapes, and financial incentives for economically disadvantaged land users. Only by integrating biodiversity conservation into all aspects of landscape and land-use planning can the loss of species and ecosystems be effectively curbed in the long term.
- Strong involvement of indigenous peoples and local communities (IP&LC): The conservation and management of biodiversity in tropical forests must take place with the active and equal participation of indigenous peoples and local communities. Their traditional knowledge, experience and management practices make a vital contribution to the conservation of forests and their biodiversity and should be recognised and supported accordingly. In large-scale conservation and nature protection projects, indigenous peoples and local communities must be consulted at an early stage, in an appropriate, free and transparent manner, and involved in decision-making processes. In particular, it is essential to respect their land rights (whether officially recognised with land titles or based on historical claims), resource use rights and rights to participate in decision-making, to ensure that nature conservation measures are not implemented at the expense of local and indigenous populations.
- Mobilising sufficient financial resources for the protection and restoration of forests: In line with Goal 19 of the KMGBF, significantly more public and private financial

resources must be mobilised for the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of tropical forests. In particular, this requires reliable, long-term and additional international public funding that takes into account the actual financial needs of forest-rich countries and reaches local stakeholders, indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Empowering young people and women: Young people must be supported as the future generation of conservationists through education, capacity-building and their involvement in monitoring and conservation measures. Women play a key role in biodiversity conservation and need autonomous access to funding and land rights, as well as to leadership roles in their communities and beyond.

2. Sustainable agriculture and biodiversity

What is at stake?

Agriculture is one of the main drivers of global biodiversity loss, yet it is itself heavily dependent on intact ecosystems. Unsustainable farming practices such as intensive land use, monocultures, the use of pesticides, deforestation and soil degradation lead to the loss of species, habitats and genetic diversity. At the same time, productive and resilient agricultural systems rely on pollination, healthy soils, natural pest control, reliable water sources and genetic diversity. Against the backdrop of the slow progress in implementing the KMGBF, the questions of how agricultural and food systems can be designed to be biodiversity-friendly and climate-resilient, how incentives harmful to biodiversity can be removed, and how sustainable farming practices can be effectively promoted is increasingly coming to the fore. Agriculture must therefore be recognised as a key lever for achieving global biodiversity and climate targets.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

Within the framework of the KMGBF, Target 7 specifically names the reduction of negative environmental impacts of agriculture, including through the reduction of pesticide risks and nutrient inputs. In addition, Target 10 calls for the sustainable management of agricultural, forestry and fisheries areas in order to maintain biodiversity, productivity and the long-term resilience of ecosystems in equal measure. Furthermore, Target 14 (integration of biodiversity into policy-making processes) and Target 18 (removing incentives and subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity) stress the importance of a biodiversity-friendly transformation of the agricultural sector, whilst Target 23 (ensuring gender equality and a gender-responsive approach to biodiversity conservation measures) aims to guarantee equal opportunities, capacity for action, rights, participation and access for women in an agricultural context.

What is OroVerde doing about this?

OroVerde works in close cooperation with partners to implement projects that promote forest-conserving, climate-resilient and biodiversity-friendly agriculture. These include approaches such as ecosystem-based adaptation, biodiversity-friendly farming systems such as sustainable agroforestry, and the restoration of forests as part of a holistic landscape approach.

Our demands

At the CBD COP, OroVerde is calling for agriculture to be given greater priority as a key sector for the protection of biodiversity. Key demands are:

- Promoting biodiversity-friendly agriculture and reducing the use of pesticides and harmful inputs: CBD Parties must significantly increase support for biodiversity-friendly agricultural practices, including agroecological approaches, diversified cropping systems, integrated pest management and practices that conserve soil biodiversity, pollinators and other ecosystem services. At the same time, the Parties must implement Target 7 by reducing excessive nutrient losses and minimising the overall risk posed by pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals. Agricultural policies, subsidies and other public support measures must be aligned with these objectives and incorporate biodiversity into agricultural decision-making.
- Strengthening smallholder farms and local communities: The CBD Parties must strengthen the capacities of smallholders and local communities so that they can promote sustainable, biodiversity-friendly production that conserves biodiversity and reduces pressure on forests. This requires improved and equitable access to finance and incentives, and technical support and secure land-use rights. Furthermore, smallholder farmers and local communities must be involved, through a participatory and rights-based approach, in the development and implementation of policy measures related to biodiversity, agriculture and land use that affect their livelihoods.
- Recognition of women's rights and knowledge: Equality for women and girls, as well as their access to land and natural resources, must be ensured so that they can participate fully, equally and effectively in decisions on land use, management of natural resources and the conservation of biodiversity. Furthermore, women must be empowered to take on leadership roles, and their knowledge must be recognised and incorporated into policy strategies and biodiversity conservation measures.

Countries must also remove barriers that restrict women's access to financial resources, information and capacity-building.

- Integrating biodiversity into agricultural policies for food security: NBSAPs must be better aligned with agricultural, food and land-use policies to ensure that biodiversity is integrated as a cross-cutting issue throughout the sector. Agriculture should not be viewed solely as a driver of biodiversity loss, but as part of the solution, through biodiversity-friendly practices that conserve and restore biodiversity, preserve ecosystem services, and strengthen the resilience and long-term sustainability of food production.
- Enforcement of smallholder women's land rights: States must strengthen women's equal rights to ownership of, access to and control over agricultural land and natural resources – including through secure land tenure rights and proper land registration and demarcation. Women who defend their land, livelihoods and biodiversity-friendly agricultural systems against threats, violence and intimidation must be protected and supported.
- Digital Sequence Information (DSI): DSI derived from genetic resources must remain openly accessible, while ensuring the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from its use. The Cali Fund must be effectively operationalised and adequately financed, ensuring that Indigenous Peoples and local communities receive a fair share of the benefits, particularly when their traditional knowledge has contributed to the development or use of such information.

3. IP&LC and Biodiversity

What is at stake?

Indigenous peoples and local communities are key players in combating biodiversity loss and its global impacts. Through their traditional knowledge, they make a significant contribution to the effective conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of resources, provided that their communities and territorial rights are protected. This is also evident from the fact that, although indigenous peoples account for less than 5 per cent of the world's population, they inhabit or manage areas that are home to around 80 per cent of the world's remaining biodiversity. This benefits not only indigenous peoples and local communities, but also nature and the global population as a whole. COP17 offers, therefore, an important opportunity to strengthen the implementation of a human rights-based approach to biodiversity conservation and to secure the role of IP&LC as equal partners in the implementation of the KMGBF.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

The realisation of the rights and participation of IP&LCs are cross-cutting issues within the KMGBF and will be discussed at COP17, particularly regarding the implementation of NBSAPs, financing mechanisms and monitoring.

Of particular relevance here are Target 1 (Integrated spatial planning respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities), Target 3 (Protected areas and other effective conservation measures must be implemented whilst recognising traditional territories and the rights of IP&LC), Target 5 (conservation and promotion of the traditional sustainable use of wild species), Target 9 (promotion of the sustainable use of natural resources to secure the livelihoods of local communities), Target 13 (equitable access and benefit-sharing, as well as the protection of traditional knowledge based on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)), Target 19 (Improving direct access by indigenous peoples and local communities to financing mechanisms) and Target 22 (Full, effective and equal participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes at all levels).

Furthermore, the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) on the protection of traditional knowledge and the further development of guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) play a central role in the negotiations. The FPIC principle is set out in the UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) and in ILO Convention No. 169.

What is OroVerde doing about this?

In OroVerde's projects, empowering IP&LC is a key objective. This is achieved by preserving and promoting the communities' traditional knowledge, as well as through capacity-building and knowledge-sharing to strengthen their political advocacy, the promotion of their own governance structures, and the development of sustainable, local and regional economic initiatives. OroVerde focuses on securing the necessary funding for projects and related measures through local indigenous partners and organisations, as well as on public relations and campaigning in Germany and Europe, thereby acting as a bridge between funding institutions, local NGOs, indigenous umbrella organisations and local communities.

Our demands

- Direct access to funding and financial mechanisms: Predictable, long-term funding and direct access to financial resources are essential to enable IP&LC to sustain and strengthen their contributions to biodiversity conservation and climate protection, and their adaptation to the consequences of the climate crisis and biodiversity loss

caused by human activity and, above all, by the Global North. Direct access to funding strengthens the self-determination of IP&LC by reducing dependence on intermediary institutions and improving the efficiency, equity and effectiveness of funding. It also recognises and honours their sustainable relationship with nature.

- Fair participation of IP&LC in negotiation decisions: As indispensable guardians of global biodiversity, IP&LC should be able to participate effectively and on an equal footing in international negotiation and decision-making processes. This requires adequate financial and logistical support, as well as the strengthening of representation mechanisms that enable IP&LC to participate independently and effectively in international decision-making bodies.
- Protection of environmental defenders and activists for human rights and the rights of nature: A supportive, safe and inclusive environment is needed for environmental defenders so that they can contribute fully to the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as to climate action, including through the recognition of their traditional knowledge, practices and role as guardians of the environment. Legal and institutional protection for human rights defenders working in the field of biodiversity conservation must be effectively implemented, including through the ratification and effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement (in Latin America) and comparable regional or national legal frameworks.
- Recognition and respect for the land rights and traditional territories of IP&LC: The rights of IP&LC to their territories and resources must be recognised, respected and protected in accordance with applicable international standards. Long-term political and financial support should strengthen the contribution of IP&LC to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including through the recognition, protection and integration of their traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and governance systems into relevant policies and decision-making processes.

4. Gender and Biodiversity

What is at stake?

Gender equality is an essential prerequisite for effective and long-term biodiversity conservation.

Women play a central role in the sustainable use of natural resources, particularly in rural areas, and often possess valuable local and traditional knowledge about species, ecosystems and sustainable management practices. At the same time, in many countries they remain excluded from land rights, resources, funding and political decision-making processes. These structural inequalities not only

undermine the protection of their rights but also hinder biodiversity conservation. Currently, the issue remains programmatic and non-binding for the Parties to the CBD. There is a lack of sufficient funding, gender-disaggregated data and robust indicators to systematically measure and demand progress. Consequently, gender aspects have so far been inadequately addressed in many national biodiversity strategies and action plans. The challenge today therefore lies less in recognising gender equality than in the binding and verifiable implementation of existing commitments.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

Gender equality is enshrined as a cross-cutting issue in the CBD and the KMGBF. Section C of the KMGBF identifies a gender-responsive approach as a prerequisite for implementing the framework. Specifically, Target 23 calls for promoting the equality of women and girls, strengthening their equal participation and leadership roles at all levels, and ensuring their rights and equal access to land and natural resources. In addition, the Gender Plan of Action (2023–2030) was adopted at CBD COP15 through Decision 15/11. However, neither Target 23 nor the Gender Plan of Action establishes binding obligations for the Parties or effective accountability mechanisms.

What is OroVerde doing about this?

OroVerde systematically incorporates gender considerations into its projects – ranging from gender-responsive to gender-transformative approaches. Women are not merely included as participants, but are recognised as equal stakeholders in planning, implementation and decision-making processes. Their diverse needs, their local and traditional knowledge, and their perspectives are specifically integrated into project development. At the same time, OroVerde does not view women in isolation, but takes into account the social, economic and cultural structures in which they live. The aim is to reduce existing inequalities, promote equal participation and thus strengthen the effectiveness and sustainability of biodiversity conservation measures in the long term.

Our demands

- **Equitable access to resources:** Women require equal and non-discriminatory access to land, finance, wages, education, technologies and the economic benefits arising from biodiversity conservation and the use of genetic resources. Their differing conditions of access must be specifically taken into account, and existing structural disadvantages must be eliminated.
- **Equal participation:** Women must be granted mandated co-decision-making rights in negotiation, coordination and decision-making processes aimed at biodiversity

conservation, ecosystem preservation and the sustainable use of land, and their participation must be established as a fundamental prerequisite for decision-making.

- Recognition and integration of traditional knowledge: Women's knowledge of biodiversity and sustainable resource use should be recognised as an independent and relevant source of knowledge and systematically integrated into biodiversity strategies, nature conservation measures and research.
- Binding implementation: Gender considerations must be integrated into NBSAPs in a binding manner and with specific targets. This requires adequate funding, gender-disaggregated data collection and transparent monitoring to ensure progress is traceable. The Gender Plan of Action should be consistently implemented and regularly evaluated for this purpose.

5. Funding for biodiversity

What is at stake?

Public and private finance play a central role in implementing the KMGBF and addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss, with governments being particularly responsible for providing adequate and predictable funding. This is not just a question of the scale of available funding, but also of how public and private financial flows impact biodiversity, ecosystems and the climate. Financial decisions can reinforce economic activities and production systems that harm biodiversity, but they can equally promote nature conservation and restoration measures. The financing of measures to conserve biodiversity is therefore closely linked to the socio-ecological transformation of the economy, agriculture and industry. Key factors include the integration of biodiversity considerations into budgetary and financial decisions, the measurement and monitoring of impacts, and access by various stakeholders to appropriate financing instruments. Furthermore, the financial sector can help to scale up sustainable alternatives to existing patterns of production and consumption, thereby supporting the implementation of the KMGBF.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

Biodiversity financing is a key cross-cutting issue of the KMGBF and is addressed in particular in Target 14 (Integration of biodiversity into policy-making and public and private financing and investment processes), Target 15 (Consideration and disclosure of biodiversity risks and impacts by companies and financial institutions), Target 18 (removing incentives that are harmful to biodiversity and strengthening positive incentives), Target 19 (mobilising public, private and innovative sources of finance) and Target 20 (building capacity, knowledge and technical cooperation for implementation).

Achieving these targets requires not only additional funding but also financing approaches that enable the transition to biodiversity-friendly economic and production systems.

What is OroVerde doing about this?

OroVerde is committed to making biodiversity finance more effective, inclusive and practice-oriented. Together with partners, OroVerde develops and tests solutions that support access to biodiversity finance and the financing of economic transformation, whilst establishing biodiversity monitoring and impact assessment as an integral part of financing approaches, as well as advocating for increased public funding for forest conservation globally.

Our demands

- Strengthening international public biodiversity financing: International funding for the conservation of biodiversity must be significantly increased and secured in the long term in order to provide US\$30 billion annually by 2030, as called for in the KMGBF. Cuts to funding for international forest conservation threaten tropical forests, the livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities, and the implementation of the KMGBF. Germany and other wealthy countries should expand and stabilise their biodiversity funding. In particular, funding for the conservation and restoration of tropical forests must be expanded and made reliable and secure in the long term.
- Integrating biodiversity into financing and investment decisions: Biodiversity, and its protection, conservation and restoration, must be systematically integrated into public and private financing and investment decisions. Public and private funding programmes and budgets, development banks, financial institutions and investors should consistently align their decisions with the objectives of the KMGBF. Subsidies that are harmful to biodiversity must be phased out.
- Financing the transition to biodiversity-friendly production and economic systems: The transition to biodiversity-friendly production and economic systems must become a central component of international biodiversity financing. Public and private financing approaches should specifically support investment in this transition, mitigate transition risks and create long-term incentives for biodiversity-friendly economic activity.
- Improved access to biodiversity finance, biodiversity monitoring and impact assessment: Indigenous peoples, local communities, small-scale producers and other disadvantaged agricultural producers, as well as their organisations, need better access

to appropriate financing instruments, technical support and targeted capacity-building in order to strengthen their sustainable economic practices and secure their contributions to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the long term.

- Call to the Federal Government: German funds for biodiversity conservation and natural climate protection, which are made available through the Climate and Transformation Fund (KTF) and special funds (Special Fund for Infrastructure and Climate Neutrality), must not be transferred to the regular federal budget, where they run the risk of being used inefficiently or for other purposes.

6. Recognition and implementation of the rights of nature

What is at stake?

International regulatory frameworks for environmental and biodiversity protection repeatedly reveal their limitations when it comes to their effective implementation and application. In court, the protection of species and biodiversity all too often loses out because existing legal entities, such as companies, are in a more advantageous legal position; they do not stand 'on an equal footing' with nature in court, but are subjects of the law, whilst nature is regarded merely as an object, without legal autonomy. Granting ecosystems and species their own rights therefore imply an enhancement of their legal status within existing biodiversity and environmental legislation. These rights of nature were incorporated into the Constitution of Ecuador as early as 2008 and have been applied on several occasions to safeguard ecosystems such as forests and rivers.

Where is this being discussed within the CBD?

Whilst the recognition of nature or biodiversity as a legal entity is not explicitly mentioned, Target 19 on biodiversity financing also refers to the promotion of "Mother Earth-centred actions". Furthermore, on the occasion of 'Mother Earth Day' in 2024, the CBD Secretariat recognises the rights of nature and points out that the KMGBF '...recognises and takes into account diverse value systems and concepts – including the rights of nature and the rights of Mother Earth for those countries that recognise them.'

What is OroVerde doing about this?

To date, it has primarily been OroVerde's indigenous partners in Ecuador and Peru who have pursued the approach of recognising nature as a legal entity. OroVerde therefore supports its indigenous partners who invoke the rights of nature to strengthen the legal protection of their traditional territories. OroVerde is also beginning to introduce the issue of the rights of nature into relevant discourses through its lobbying and advocacy work.

Our demands

- Recognition of nature's inherent rights: Ecosystems, species and natural communities must be recognised as possessing intrinsic value and their own rights – in particular the right to survival, regeneration and ecological integrity. This recognition must be linked to the CBD's target of restoring at least 30 per cent of degraded ecosystems by 2030. States must be obliged to grant specific legal status to ecosystems of particular importance, such as tropical forests. This will enable these ecosystems to appear in court in their own name and with the right to bring legal action, through legal representation (naturally, represented by humans on their behalf).
- Representation of nature in political decision-making: In decisions with significant impacts on biodiversity, nature must be granted an independent voice in consultations alongside states, companies and affected people, for example through ombudsman bodies, guardians or other forms of legal representation.
- Strengthening the precautionary principle in favour of biodiversity: Where it is not clearly established whether a project will cause irreversible damage to an ecosystem, the decision must be in favour of ecological integrity. This aligns the precautionary principle more closely with the inherent rights of nature and entails a reversal of the burden of proof.
- Obligation for companies to respect the rights of nature: The CBD Parties must legally oblige companies to respect the rights of nature throughout their entire supply chains. This includes liability rules, due diligence obligations and access to justice.
- Embedding the rights of nature in national biodiversity strategies: Each Party must integrate the rights of nature into its NBSAPs and provide specific indicators for this. To this end, the German Government must also recognise the rights of nature.

For more information visit



<https://en.oroverde.de>