

Headline	
ENGAGING IN GLOBAL-LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ADVOCACY - BRINGING RIGHTS TO THE FOREFRONT OF BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE ACTION	
Domains of change	
Please mark each domain that is significantly covered within the case study. At least one box should be marked, and as many as appropriate. You should only mark a box if there is reported change, not if it is only expected in the future.	
Changes in the lives of people facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability, and/or the realisation of their rights	
Changes in laws, policies and practices that affect people's rights	X
Changes in the capacity of organisations and communities to support people's rights;	X
Changes in partnerships and collaborations that support people's rights;	X
Changes in the participation of groups facing poverty, marginalisation or vulnerability in their own development	
Changes in local leadership and ownership of development and humanitarian work.	
Basic Information	
Name of Danish CSO	Forests of the World
Name of Southern partner(s)	International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity; CBD Alliance.
Year of submission	2022
Name of project / programme / approach	Advocacy for Forests and Peoples in the CBD Convention on Biological Diversity Negotiations
Project / programme period	May 2020 our Global Biodiversity Group (of volunteers) was founded. SPA initiated January 2022
Country	Global
Constituency	Indigenous peoples and other forest dependent groups
Summary (1000 characters only, including spaces)	To reach a world with a rich biodiversity, which is our institutional purpose, we complement our cooperation with partners locally with political advocacy at all relevant levels. One of these are the international negotiations on biodiversity - the UNFCCC. This year we participated in COP15 in Montreal with a significant FoW delegation. The overall purpose was to ensure that the agreement produced the best possible framework to protect the forests of the world, including ensuring that indigenous peoples and other forest dependent communities rights were secured in the final agreement. This case describes how we worked through networks and political meetings to ensure the objectives mentioned above. The case also describes the possible transformative change in environmental policymaking that the Kunming-Montreal Agreement entails.
Context	
Global biodiversity is currently under such pressure that it is referred to as the 6th mass extinction (IPBES 2019). With the increasing international recognition that our nature is in a crisis, we see a need to enhance not only programmatic work with partners in the tropical forests, but also to increase our efforts in policy development and popular engagement. Hence, this case departs from the work based in our Knowledge and Innovation Hub (KI HUB), which aims to create knowledge based on local agendas and use it on the global political scene to foster results that have a positive effect on a local context. In this case FoW established a group of volunteers supported by policy, engagement and advisory staff to closely follow the	

preparatory negotiations on biodiversity leading up to the COP15 of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). The group prepared knowledge papers on the topics we were to focus on in the negotiations and followed the preparatory meetings online before the COP. A part of the volunteer group also participated with international and policy staff from Bolivia and Denmark during the summit held in Montreal 2022.

Objectives

When Forests of the World participate in international political negotiations like the CBD COP15 it is with the overall purpose to ensure that the agreement gives us the best possible foundation in rules or policies to regulate actors, and supports our collaboration with partners to protect the forests of the world. This includes working to ensure that indigenous peoples' and other forest dependent communities' rights are represented in and secured by the final agreement.

This purpose is further described in our Global Outcomes #1 and #2 of our results framework:

- GO 1 - Global-Local Advocacy: Bring our Monitoring, Reporting and Verification tool on Non-Carbon Benefits to the table in the UN CBD COP15
- GO 2 - Global-Local Advocacy: Increase access of rightsholders to relevant negotiation fora within the CBD COP 15 and UNFCCC COP 27

Specifically we had set out to ensure;

- A high level of ambition for Target 3 - which aims to effectively conserve and manage 2030 at least 30 percent of terrestrial, inland water, and of coastal and marine areas - to ensure that the most important areas for biodiversity are part of the target.
- That indigenous peoples' rights is reflected in Target 3 as an essential part in securing an effective conservation.
- That the linkages between the climate, biodiversity and rights nexus are understood.
- Effective indicators for monitoring the progress of implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), including a particular focus on ambition, on the biodiversity/climate change and rights linkages
- Effective networks and partnerships to achieve the above mentioned priorities and how we as an organisation can contribute to achieving these.
- Communication about the COP through the Danish media and our own SoMe platforms in Denmark.

The efforts of Forests of the World at the CBD negotiations are part of a bigger network of NGOs and scientists. Together we pushed various parties at the negotiations and communicated about progress at the negotiations through stories to the press and thereby the rest of the world. Forests of the World specifically contributed to this joint effort by facilitating daily meetings with our networks such as the CBD Alliance and the Indigenous Peoples Caucus/International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity sharing intel and strategies. Several times a week we met with the Danish delegation and participated in joint meetings with other delegates. Our specific focus was to find champions and supporters among government negotiators to promote rights issues in the GBF text and to promote access of rightsholders to relevant negotiation fora within the CBD COP 15.

Change

We contributed - among many CSOs and IP representatives - to a potentially transformative shift in the approach to environmental policymaking.

In December 2022, the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15 of the CBD) reached a new Global Biodiversity Framework agreement (GBF) called the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Kunming-Montreal Agreement is as important for global biodiversity as the Paris Agreement was for the fight against climate change. The Kunming-Montreal Agreement sets out standards for parties' interventions and efforts to reverse the loss of biodiversity. This will both influence what states are obliged to do to halt the loss of biodiversity but might also give our partners who co-live with nature and protect biodiversity a tool in order to ensure their rights to continue their fight for the forest and biodiversity.

In the Kunming-Montreal Agreement, Indigenous Peoples and local communities have been recognized as key partners in the solution of the biodiversity crisis. The text was the culmination of over four years of negotiations and demonstrates potentially transformative shifts in the way environmental policymaking is being approached. It directly, and unequivocally, recognises the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities over generations to retaining and managing biodiversity on their territories and the global importance of respecting the fundamental rights that underpin these contributions. The Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' rights were integrated into many of the GBF articles and it was particularly important that a clear reference was made to their territorial rights, as included in Target 3 on conservation while *"recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories"* and ensuring that all systems of protected and conserved areas are *"equitably governed"*. As underlined by the spokesperson of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Biodiversity, Co-Chair Lakpa Nuri Sherpa, in his closing statement at the COP15 words on paper will, however, not resolve the biodiversity crisis; *"We have spoken and you have heard us, let us now put those words into action."*

In regards to our specific objectives, the agreement text exhibits what we and our networks achieved:

- Target 3 includes the wording that 30 percent of land and oceans should be protected, and Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights are mentioned in an unprecedented way in Target 3, as mentioned above, and throughout the text.
- The linkage between climate and biodiversity is mentioned, but it is weaker than wished for.
- The implementation mechanism is not finished as indicators still need to be decided.
- Furthermore we participated in three different networks while also researching other possibilities for gaining influence.
- Last but not least, we communicated during our own social media while there, with video diaries, to make the COP available and understandable for our followers on SoMe. And we were cited in 12 national Danish media during and after the COP.

The Kunming-Montreal Agreement gives us a platform to elevate the rights of nature and the rights of the people protecting nature and biodiversity. Besides prescribing actions and plans that will help conserve biodiversity, the agreement also wants to halt any action that harms biodiversity. So it has the potential to become a very important tool in the fight for nature and the people protecting it.

Though the Kunming-Montreal Agreement is as important for biodiversity as the Paris Agreement is for the climate, its effect now depends on the parties' implementation and fulfilment of the agreement. Therefore it is civil society's ongoing task to make sure that parties comply with the agreement. It will be our focus to ensure that Denmark makes an ambitious plan for how to reverse the loss of biodiversity in Denmark, as well as a plan for how to support other countries in doing the same whether this be through financial support or partnerships. Either way FoW's local knowledge, programmatic work and many years of experience in conserving forests and nature will be highly relevant in these efforts.

Contribution

The abovementioned results in the final Kunming-Montreal Agreement were only possible because of wider networks of like-minded civil society such as the CBD Alliance, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Biodiversity, the 92 group etc. These networks enforce and amplify our efforts at the international COP by working together in order to strengthen our advocacy. We cooperated by sharing intel, developing political asks, a common analysis of the negotiations and the high level political streams present.

In Montreal our team followed the negotiations, held meetings with partners, indigenous peoples lead negotiators (from International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, IIFB) and with Danish delegation/civil servants and parliamentarians and took a leading role in the Danish 92 Group during the COP. FoW was a valued partner in both the CBD Alliance and the 92 group where we provided daily notes from the negotiations and participated actively in the analysis of the negotiations. Detailed summary of the negotiations was crucial for a common analysis and future strategizing was a crucial part of our participation in both networks. FoW do however still have some work to do in order to find a sufficiently efficient network before the next CBD COP.

Furthermore FoW facilitated a meeting between the Danish delegation and IIFB delegates and continuously passed on key negotiation messages from IIFB to negotiators. Evidence of the effect of our network's

presence can be traced in the changes made between versions of the negotiation texts, and the submissions made by IIFB and civil society leading up to the final agreement - a case in point is the recognition of traditional territorial rights and that governance should be equitable (Target 3). This should be read as a recognition of, and not in any way a wish to take credit from the focused efforts of the delegates and leadership of the IIFB.

Lessons

Although biodiversity in general, particularly in recent years, has experienced increasing awareness, this agenda is still somewhat less visible publicly, politically and in civil society. The degree of attention that applies to the biodiversity agenda can be perceived as one of the main challenges throughout our work in relation to COP15 as it is harder to mobilise and create political change. This challenge was overcome by participating in the three networks, the CBD Alliance, the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Biodiversity and the 92 Group. Hence we decided to follow a flexible advocacy approach with adaptations along the way - giving priority to actions, where our help would make a difference, including sharing urgent news of positions in the process of finding support amongst parties etc.

The search for and establishment of effective and representative partnerships as early as possible in the preparations, will be a priority for FoW prior to future negotiations - something we are now applying in the context of the upcoming implementation of the EUDR (European Deforestation Regulation) and the room for interpretation of indigenous peoples rights herein, to ensure the greatest possible benefit from all partners and allies. Part of this work will, among other things, be to identify key partners, engage in capacity building and joint analyses, secure participation and establish good conditions for communication, both in terms of meeting frequency and knowledge exchange in order to guarantee a structure that ensures the obtainment of detailed and updated coverage of negotiations and all relevant focus areas. This will also influence the ability to influence and provide guidance for relevant stakeholders both before, during and after the participation.

Evidence

As it is mentioned in several places, the work with Target 3 across the intervention is a clear example of a strong link between a given activity and a satisfactory outcome. As it very early in the preparatory process became clear to us how important this goal would be during the summit and how much it was related to other initiatives and focus areas in Forest of the World, we prioritised our efforts. This proved to be very useful in terms of being able to discuss, follow up and continuously determine our position on the various formulations and the development of the goal in general at a very detailed level.

Based on this, it has been possible to report, evaluate and assess the outcome of both Target 3 and the other objectives of our participation, as well as the agreement as a whole. For this, various platforms have been used before, during and afterwards. On Forest of the World's own website, we have written articles about [the beginning of the summit](#), [during the summit as a status of the negotiations](#) and [an assessment of the agreement](#). On our social media, we followed the development of the negotiations daily with daily updates, Q&A and insights into the participation in general, where it is also possible to find pictures and videos, including [via the channel "COP 15" on our Instagram profile](#). We also ran [a biodiversity campaign](#) leading up to the summit, collecting petitions for biodiversity protection, developing articles, and emphasising [knowledge sharing about biodiversity in general](#).

We have along the entire process engaged with Danish politicians, ministers, organisations and the broader public to reach common and ambitious positions. Through our collaboration and participation in the 92 Group, we organised [a conference in the Danish Parliament](#), May 2022 with a presentation from the Danish Minister for Environment and a panel of Speakers from the Parliament, as well as scientists and CSOs. In addition, we have been actively engaged in the development of [a position prior to the COP](#), as well as [an evaluation of and position on the agreement](#) afterwards and the 92-group's [letter to the Danish Minister for the Environment](#) regarding the need for an active and ambitious Danish effort.

The main proof that we and numerous other civil society and politicians worked to ensure a strong Target 3, is the content as explained of the actual outcome in [The new global biodiversity framework agreement \(GLF\)](#) called the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Key secondary sources and important reports include the Global [assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services by IPBES in 2019](#). This report is an assessment of the status of nature, the trends seen in nature, the social implications of these trends, their direct and indirect causes, and the actions needed to ensure a sustainable future for ourselves and nature.

[Global Biodiversity Outlook 5 produced by the Secretariat of the CBD in 2020](#). This report is a kind of progress report on what progress has been made globally to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

IATI Tagging

This case study should be listed under relevant activities in the IATI Registry and tagged using following categories:

- Country ([Country - iatistandard.org](#))
- Region ([Region - iatistandard.org](#))
- DAC 3 Digit Sector ([DAC 3 Digit Sector - iatistandard.org](#))
- DAC 5 Digit Sector ([DAC 5 Digit Sector - iatistandard.org](#))
- Humanitarian Scope Type (where applicable, [Humanitarian Scope Type - iatistandard.org](#))

List of Media Coverage of CBD with FoW cited:

Sådan gik det til da verdens lande fik to uger til at redde naturen	Artikel	Zetland	22/12/2022	Link
“Den største naturindsats nogensinde” vedtaget i kamp mellem rige og naturrige lande	Artikel	Globalnyt.dk	20/12/2022	Link
Rigere lande skal give til de fattigere med en 'ekstrem ambitiøs' miljøaftale	artikel	DR.dk	19/12/2022	Link
Radioavisen	Radioavisen kl 12	DR Radio	19/12/2022	
P1-Morgen	P1 Morgen	DR radio	19/12/2022	
Naturen fik endelig sin Paris-aftale: Kina pressede biodiversitetsaftale igennem under stort diplomatisk drama	Artikel	Politiken	19/12/2022	Link
Verdens lande indgår historisk aftale om at redde klodens natur	Artikel	Altinget	19/12/2022	Link
COP 15 Stort set ukendt: Den Største Af Alle Kriser	Radioprogram/podcast	lokal og regional radioer	14/12/2022	Link
Udviklingslande kræver milliarder af dollars for at beskytte naturen	Artikel	Altinget	14/12/2022	Link
Vi skal have en aftale	Radioindslag	P1Morgen	07/12/2022	Link
Danske NGO'er er massivt til stede i Canada til afgørende FN-møde om biodiversitet	Artikel	Globalnyt	02/12/2022	Link