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NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

The concept of Nature-based Solutions has been co-opted and misused for a long time and there has not been a multilaterally agreed concept nor guidelines. With the recently launched UNEA resolution 5/5, this concept is still very broad and lacks appropriate regulation mechanisms, so corporations can continue their business-as-usual activities, including greenwashing through carbon and biodiversity offsets, environmental services, and 'net zero' pledges, all of which are flawed and failed approaches. Such activities have led to land grabbing and the violation of the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and has indeed worsened the biodiversity and climate crises.

RELEVANCE FOR BONN/ COP28: NbS is part of the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (Section XIV: Forest). Also, NbS is included in Article 6.8 of the Paris Agreement, the ENACT (Enhancing Nature-based Solutions for an Accelerated Climate Transformation) initiative, proposed by the Egyptian COP27 Presidency, the Government of Germany and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), will deliver a report at COP28.

HERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU MIGHT HEAR THAT ARE FALSE:

- NbS is an upgrade of the Ecosystem Approach
- The concept and proposal of Nbs comes from a bottom up approach, taking into account the voices and needs of the communities vulnerable to climate change and biodiversity loss
- NbS are not linked to offsetting mechanisms nor greenwashing

HERE'S HOW TO RESPOND:

1. The Ecosystem Approach had clear principles defined in the CBD which safeguard ecosystem functions and the communities who depend on these, while NbS do not.
2. The concept and proposal of NbS comes from a consortium of Big Non-governmental Organizations and finance institutions, there are no critical Indigenous Peoples Organizations or grassroot organizations involved
3. NbS have been used already by big polluters to greenwash their activities and keep their emissions level.
4. NbS language is included in A6.8 of the Paris Agreement and has been related to net zero, carbon neutral and net gain in ecosystems, showing clear links to carbon offsetting, biodiversity offsetting and market based mechanisms.

Important Links

- <https://www.ienearth.org/nature-based-solutions/>
- <https://climatefalsesolutions.org/>
- <https://twm.my/title2/resurgence/2020/345-346/eco2.htm>
- <https://www.climatejusticehub.org/2023/05/15/submission-for-the-first-global-consultation-on-nature-based-solutions/>
- <https://www.nbsyouthposition.org/>
- <https://globalforestcoalition.org/forest-cover-61/>
- <https://www.foei.org/publication/chasing-unicorns-carbon-markets-net-zero/>