



YOUTH PERSPECTIVES FOR A **TRANSFORMATIVE** POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

Societal values and principles, colored by systemic inequalities, are shaping our economies, policies, and institutions in unsustainable and inequitable ways. The result is a global **social-ecological crisis**—manifesting in climate change and the unprecedented loss of the biodiversity and cultural diversity underpinning our survival and well-being.

Faced by this reality, youth around the world are demanding genuine **transformative change**—bold and profound changes to the systems that brought us to this situation. What got us here won't take us forward.

Our Vision for Biodiversity

As the governments of the world are coming together to negotiate under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to agree on a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), youth have rallied together to gather our voices and forge a path of reconnection and reconciliation with nature for a just and sustainable future.

Through wide consultations with our community, the Global Youth Biodiversity Network (GYBN) is articulating our demands and priorities to address biodiversity loss—through policies and action on the ground. We demand urgent action to achieve the long-term vision of living in harmony with nature, which for us means that we achieve (1) the integrity of our life support system, (2) a society that lives sustainably, and (3) equity for nature and people.



Integrity of Our Life
Support System



Society Living
Sustainably



Equity for
Nature & People

Youth demands and priorities

As the international coordination platform for youth participation in the CBD, GYBN is calling for a just, implementable, and impactful post-2020 global biodiversity framework. This means that the GBF must reflect the actions and enabling conditions needed for genuine transformative change, addressing the root causes of biodiversity loss and putting equity for nature and all people at the center.

In particular, three key priorities have emerged from our consultations. In the following pages, we elaborate each of them.



Intergenerational
Equity & Full and
Effective Participation
of Youth



Transformative
Education



Rights-based
Approaches for
People & Nature

To view more of GYBN's policy positions, visit: gybn.org/policy

About GYBN



The Global Youth Biodiversity Network is a network of individuals and youth organizations worldwide standing together to safeguard biodiversity and halt its loss, and the international coordination platform for youth participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).

gybn.org

What we do



Coordinate youth
participation in
the CBD and other
relevant processes



Capacity
building and
implement



Liaison and
alliances



Outreach and
awareness



Network
building



Community
projects



INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY & FULL AND EFFECTIVE YOUTH PARTICIPATION

What is Intergenerational Equity?

The principle of intergenerational equity articulates a concept of **fairness among generations** in biodiversity conservation, sustainable use, benefit-sharing. The principle states that every generation holds the Earth in common with members of the present generation and with other generations, past and future.

Intergenerational equity also means ensuring meaningful engagement of younger generations (children and youth) in decision-making processes at all levels.

Why Intergenerational Equity?

The principle is the **foundation of sustainable development**, aiming to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept is explicitly mentioned in the preamble of the Paris Agreement, has long been recognized as a fundamental principle of international environmental law, and is recognized and protected in at least 63 national constitutions.

Integration of Intergenerational Equity as a cross-cutting principle can encourage the active consideration of longer-term impacts and solutions, and advance the operationalization of the principle on the ground.

Integrating Intergenerational Equity in the Post-2020 GBF*

Enabling Conditions

Paragraph 17. Further, success will depend on ensuring greater gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, reducing inequalities, greater access to education, employing rights-based approaches, **respecting the principle of intergenerational equity, acknowledging the rights of nature**, and addressing the full range of indirect drivers of biodiversity loss (...)

Goal B, Target 11

Goal B: "Nature's contributions to people are valued, maintained or enhanced (...) for the benefit of **all, including future generations**;

Target 11: Maintain and enhance nature's contributions to regulation of air **and soil** quality, quality and quantity of water, and the **prevention of** and protection from hazards and extreme events for **all, including future generations**

"Children & Youth"

Under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which enjoys near-universal ratification, States have an obligation to uphold children's rights to be heard on issues that affect them. **"Children"** should be incorporated in addition to the existing reference to youth in **Target 21**, and **"children and youth"** should be mentioned in **Paragraph 2**.

*on the basis of the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (July 2021)

Also Check Out:

CBD COP
Decision [XI/8](#)

[Paris Agreement](#)
Preamble

[Rio Principles](#)
3, 15 & 21

[Stockholm Declaration](#)
on the Human Environment

Sustainable Development
Goals ([SDGs](#))

Intergenerational Equity in Practice

- Younger generations participate in policy development and decision-making through the establishment of appropriate mechanisms and allocation of adequate resources to enable full and effective participation of children & youth.
- All projects that are likely to have significant short-term or long-term adverse impacts on biodiversity go through thorough environmental, social & cultural impact assessments.
- Environmental information is made available and youth-friendly, and capacity building schemes for younger generations are developed in partnership with them.
- The precautionary approach is widely applied by all actors and sectors in cases where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage to biodiversity.
- Resource mobilization strategies to apply the principle of intergenerational equity are put in place.





TRANSFORMATIVE EDUCATION

What is Transformative Education?

Transformative Education refers to diverse approaches to formal, non-formal, and informal education that foster generations that are fully capable of stewarding society toward a sustainable, peaceful and equitable future in harmony with nature.

Transformative education:
holistically nurtures connectedness, reciprocity, and kinship to nature.
is accessible, rights-based, inclusive, and celebrates diversity.
fosters sustainable, responsible, proactive, and critical societies.
is intergenerational, of high quality and actively supported.

Why Transformative Education?

Education is a powerful tool to effect lasting change. Young people all over the world, as well as experts, recognize the massive potential of education in moving towards living within planetary boundaries.

Yet, we also believe that educational systems of today do not yet meet the needs to elicit the needed transformative change.

Integrating Transformative Education in the Post-2020 GBF*

New Target

Proposed **new** target on education: **“Integrate transformative education on biological and cultural diversity into formal, non-formal and informal educational programmes, promoting values and behaviours that are consistent with living in harmony with nature.”**

Target 20

Alternative option: Target 20. Ensure that relevant knowledge, including the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities with their free, prior, and informed consent, guides decision-making for the effective **governance and** management of biodiversity, enabling monitoring, and by promoting awareness, **transformative** education, and research.

Definition

Proposed definition of “transformative education” for the glossary:
Transformative education - diverse approaches to formal, non-formal, and informal education that foster generations capable of stewarding society toward a sustainable, peaceful and equitable future in harmony with nature.

*on the basis of the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (July 2021)

Also Check Out:

gybn.org/education

IPBES Global Assessment
[Leverage Points](#)

[Berlin Declaration](#) on Education for Sustainable Development

[CBD Article 13](#)

[Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
Articles 28 & 29

Transformative Education in Practice

- Biodiversity is integrated in formal education curricula at all levels and across all relevant subjects, not only in natural sciences.
- Teaching staff are provided holistic training on biodiversity-related matters.
- Non-formal and informal education relevant to biodiversity and sustainability is supported and its value is recognized.
- Intergenerational learning is fostered. Lifelong learning and adult education take a central role, especially through re-skilling workers to redirect them to sustainable professions.
- Education institutions play a central role in their local communities through offering support, promoting engagement, and facilitating access to information on biodiversity-related matters.
- Education is culture-rooted, recognizes the value of indigenous and local knowledge, and supports its respectful and self-determined transmission.





3

RIGHTS-BASED APPROACHES FOR PEOPLE & NATURE

What are Rights-based Approaches?

Rights-based approaches to conservation, sustainable use and benefit-sharing mean that biodiversity policies, governance, management, and implementation do not violate human rights and actively seek ways to support and promote human rights.

Why Rights-based Approaches?

Rights-based conservation is an obligation under international law and is the most effective, efficient, and equitable path forward to safeguarding the planet. In addition to being morally and legally required, respecting and protecting human rights, especially the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other rightsholders, is an effective, just and cost-efficient conservation strategy that should be applied to all efforts to safeguard biodiversity.

Integrating Rights-based Approaches in the Post-2020 GBF*

Paragraph 12

Paragraph 12. “(...) Actions to reach these targets should be implemented consistently and in harmony with the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Protocols and other relevant international obligations **including human rights obligations**, taking into account national socioeconomic conditions.”

Target 21

Target 21. Ensure equitable and effective participation in decision-making related to biodiversity **and access to justice and information** by indigenous peoples and local communities, and respect their rights over lands, territories and resources, as well as by women and girls, and **children & youth, and ensure the safety of human rights defenders in environmental matters.**

Target 3

Target 3. Ensure that at least 30 per cent globally of land areas and of sea areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and its contributions to people, are conserved through effectively and equitably **governed and** managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, **with the free prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, and including through appropriate recognition and support for the collective lands, territories and resources of indigenous peoples and local communities.**

*on the basis of the First Draft of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (July 2021)

Also Check Out:

HRBA in the post-2020 GBF

“Human Rights-Based Approaches to Conserving Biodiversity: Equitable, Effective and Imperative” (D.Boyd & S.Keene)

“The **Human Rights Based Approach** to Development Cooperation Towards a Common Understanding Among UN Agencies”

UNDRIP, UNDROP, ILO 169, Escazú Agreement, Aarhus Convention

Rights-based Approaches in Practice

- Secure the rights of Indigenous Peoples & local communities to their lands, territories and resources.
- Ensure equitable governance in area-based measures.
- Broaden the scope of fair and equitable benefit sharing.
- Increase accountability of business and the finance sector, including regarding human rights impacts.
- Provide equitable access to financial resources and apply human rights conditions to area-based finance.
- Adequately assess and understand biodiversity and related social and human rights impacts.
- Support and protect human environmental rights defenders.
- Acknowledge and enhance the interdependence of people and nature.
- Recognise the right to a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
- Pursue gender equity and equality & Intergenerational Equity.
- Ensure strong precesses for compliance, monitoring, and accountability.

