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OCEAN
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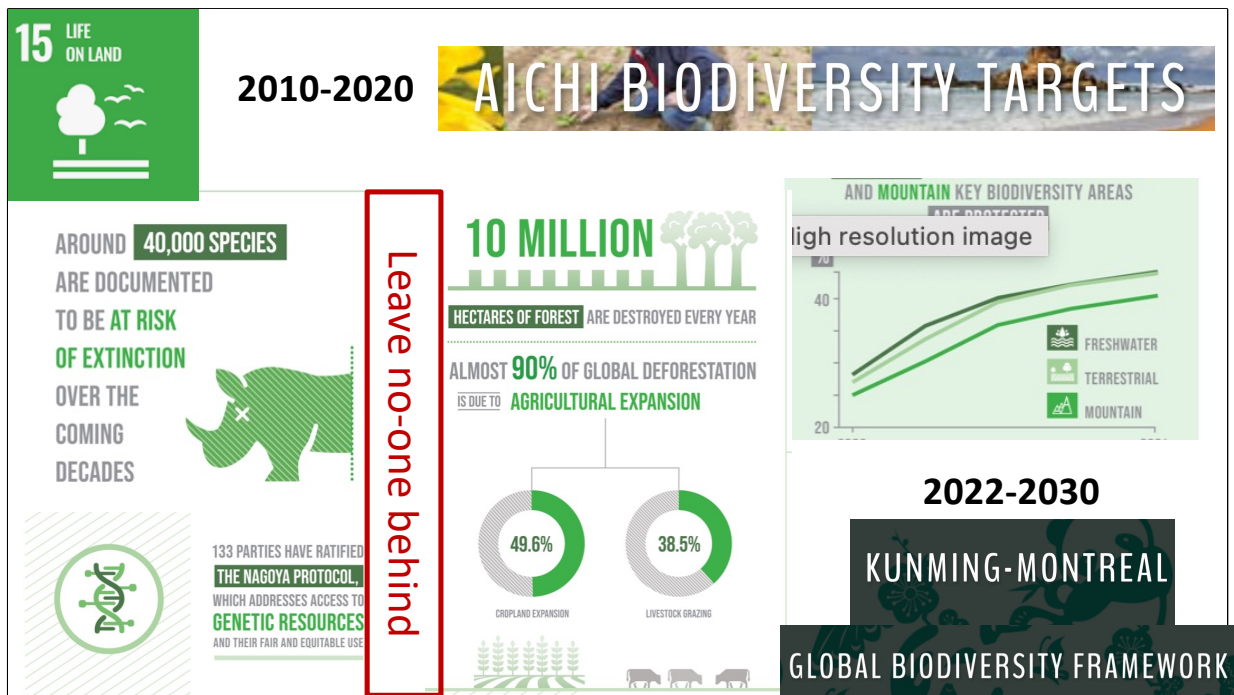
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<https://oneoceanhub.org>

SDG 15:

value added,

challenges and

opportunities
(SDG 16 & 17.14)



E Morgera, "SDG 15" in Ebbesson and Hey (eds), *The Cambridge Handbook on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and International Law* (CUP, 2022) 376-398

On the Global Biodiversity Framework, see this blog posts at <https://oneoceanhub.org/what-does-the-global-biodiversity-framework-and-other-2022-un-biodiversity-summit-outcomes-mean-for-the-ocean-and-ocean-research-part-1/>

And this webinar <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMB7wUAoAg>

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Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

**2019 Global Assessment
of Biodiversity and
Ecosystems Services**



→ global biodiversity crisis
→ transformative change

- most of nature's contributions to people are not fully replaceable and some are **irreplaceable**
- rate of global biodiversity degradation during the past 50 years is **unprecedented** in human history
- average abundance of native species in most major terrestrial biomes has fallen by at least 20%, potentially affecting ecosystem processes and **nature's contributions to human wellbeing**
- 66% of the ocean area is experiencing increasing **cumulative impacts** (with over-fishing being a main contributor and marine plastic pollution having increased tenfold since 1980, affecting at least 267 species)
- **current negative trends will undermine progress towards 80% (35 out of 44) of SDG targets related to poverty, hunger, health, water, cities, climate, oceans and land**

[...and we still do not fully understand 'what the **thresholds and tipping points** are, how long it might take for the full impacts of [biodiversity] loss to be felt...(IIED, 2019: <https://pubs.iied.org/17636iied>)]

On transformative change and biodiversity governance, see: Bolanle Erinosho, Hashali Hamukuaya, Claire Lajaunie, Alana Malinde Lancaster, Mitchell Lennan, Pierre Mazzega, Elisa Morgera and Bernadette Snow, "Transformative Governance for Ocean Biodiversity" in Visseren-Hamakers, I.J. and M. KoK (eds), *Transforming Biodiversity Governance* (Cambridge University Press, 2022) 313-338 – open access at https://www.cambridge.org/core/services/aop-cambridge-core/content/view/C76E504286F1CEA420BB923FCFD12C19/9781108479745c15_313-338.pdf/transformative_governance_for_ocean_biodiversity.pdf



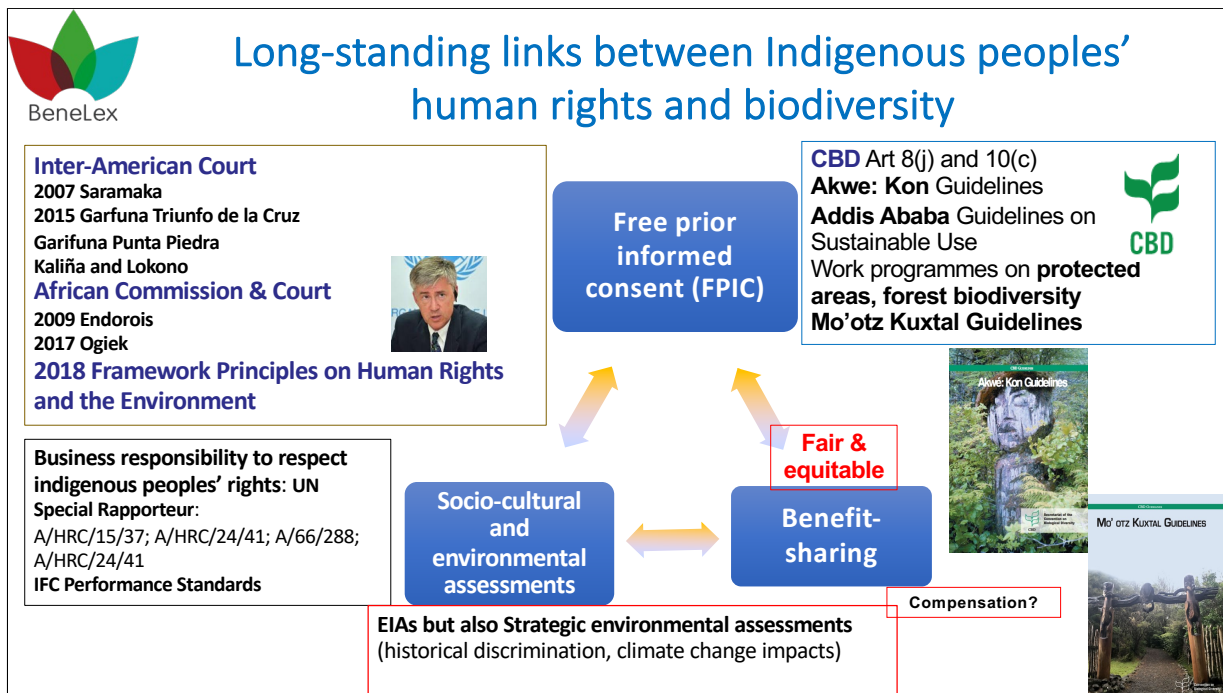
UN Special Rapporteur's report on human rights and biodiversity, 2017 (A/HRC/34/49)

- Full enjoyment of human rights (**life, health, food, water**) depends on biodiversity and ecosystem services
 - The contributions of international biodiversity law to the protection of **Indigenous Peoples' human rights (and other communities)**
 - **Everyone's** right to human **health** – inter-dependencies from microbial to planetary health (oxygen, global carbon cycle and global water cycle, climate regulation)
 - **Women's** human rights
 - **Children's** human rights
 - human rights of persons with **disabilities**
- no unjustified, foreseeable infringements of human rights arising from biodiversity-related decisions
- both on potential public interventions that may infringe biodiversity-dependent human rights and on States' obligation to prevent business entities from violating these rights in the context of **extractives, agriculture, protected areas, climate change response measures, or renewables development**
 - ocean-climate nexus → **UNGA Resolution on the human right to a healthy environment**
 - **Business and human rights** → **2022 Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework**

Morgera, "Dawn of a New Day? The Evolving Relationship between the Convention on Biological Diversity and International Human Rights Law" (2018) 54 *Wake Forest Law Review* 691-712 https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=3273997

John Knox and Elisa Morgera, *Human Rights and the Environment: the interdependence of human rights and a healthy environment in the context of national legislation on natural resources* (FAO, 2022)
<https://www.fao.org/3/cb9664en/cb9664en.pdf>

E Morgera (2020), "Biodiversity as a Human Right and its Implications for the EU's External Action", Report to the European Parliament,
[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/603491/EXPO_STU\(2020\)603491_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2020/603491/EXPO_STU(2020)603491_EN.pdf)



E Morgera, "Under the radar: fair and equitable benefit-sharing and the human rights of indigenous peoples and local communities connected to natural resources" (2019) 23 *International Journal of Human Rights* 1098-1139

A learning module (in English, French and Spanish) at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/benelex/researchoutputs/learningmodules/moduleonnaturalresources/>

Connecting Global Priorities:
Biodiversity and Human Health

4 State of Knowledge Review

Biodiversity loss & everyone's right to health

- increased risk and impact of **infectious disease** transmission, due to enhanced opportunities for contact at the human/animal/environment interface and through changing vector abundance, composition, and/or distribution
- negative effects on **psychological, cognitive and physiological health** (exposure to diverse green spaces can serve as a treatment for depression, anxiety and behavioural problems)
- Links with **human microbiome's immune-regulatory role and contributing to onset of non-communicable diseases** (type 1 diabetes, multiple sclerosis, inflammatory bowel diseases)
- reducing recuperation times and improving **recovery** outcomes in hospital patients with **non-communicable diseases**
- lost opportunities to use **bio-indicators of known human health stressors**, as well as in air- and water-quality mapping, monitoring and regulation
- lost opportunities for **discovery of new medicines** and biomedical breakthroughs. Reliance upon biodiversity for new drugs occurs in nearly every domain of medicine.

need to consider **all dimensions of health and human well-being** (food and nutrition security, infectious and non-communicable diseases as well as the psychological and biocultural dimensions of health) **in biodiversity decision-making through inclusive, support-adaptive approaches**;

addressing the **unintended** negative impacts of biodiversity interventions on human health

Addressing the **unintended** negative impacts of health interventions on biodiversity and incorporating ecosystem concerns into public health policies

considering relevant health-biodiversity linkages in developing and updating relevant national policies, risk analyses, vulnerability assessments along with **integrated impact and strategic assessments** (including **climate change**)

adopting **preventive** measures for human health based on strengthening the resilience of **socio-ecological systems**

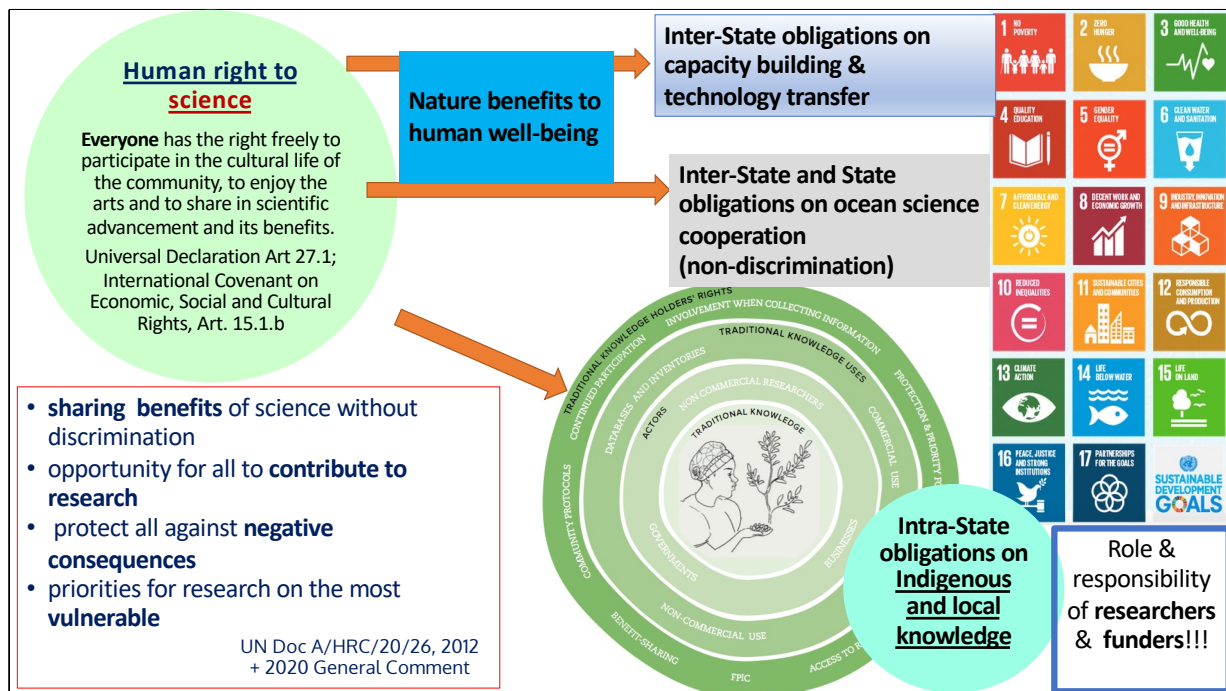
(CBD, Dec. XIII/6,2016 and XIV/4, 2018; WHO Assembly, 2016-2018)

Land-based investments

(and their protection under international economic law!)

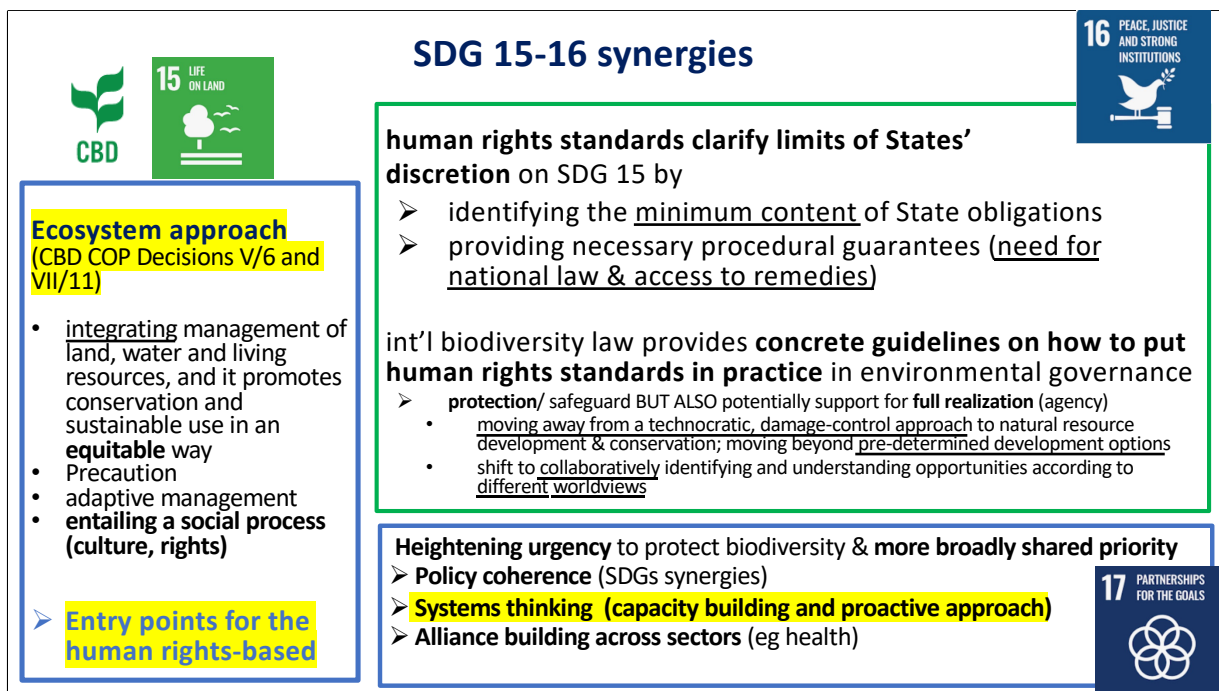
to the benefit of whom?

E Morgera (2020), “[Biodiversity as a Human Right](#) and its Implications for the EU’s External Action”, Report to the European Parliament.



E Morgera, "Fair and Equitable Benefit-sharing at the Crossroads of the Human Right to Science and International Biodiversity Law" (2015) 4 *Laws* 803-831, <https://www.mdpi.com/2075-471X/4/4/803>

Learning module (in English, French and Spanish) at <https://www.strath.ac.uk/research/strathclydecentreenvironmentallawgovernance/benelex/researchoutputs/learningmodules/moduleontraditionalknowledge/>



E Morgera, "The Ecosystem Approach and the Precautionary Principle" in E Morgera and J Razzaque (eds) *Encyclopedia of Environmental Law: Biodiversity and Nature Protection Law* (EE, 2017) 70-80

https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2611918

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decision-making for a
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people and planet
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