



In this issue

- **Statement for Agenda item 4**
- **Biomass**

This CBDA statement on Agenda Item 4 was not read in full due to the Chair reducing the allocated minutes because of time pressure. We publish the full statement below.

Statement for Agenda item 4: Matters related to the work programme of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and implications of its assessment for the work undertaken under the Convention

This statement is on behalf of the CBD Alliance.

Biodiversity is declining at an unprecedented pace, threatening the ecosystems that sustain all life on Earth. While decades of initiatives have aimed to reverse this trend, most have failed because they target symptoms rather than the deeper political and economic structures driving ecological destruction.

The IPBES Transformative Change Assessment provides valuable insights on the root causes of biodiversity destruction, namely disconnection from and domination over nature and people; concentration of power and wealth; and prioritization of short-term, individual and material gains. It provides principles to guide transformative change – namely, equity and justice, pluralism and inclusion, respectful and reciprocal human-nature relationships, and adaptive learning and action. The Nexus Assessment reinforces that biodiversity loss, climate change, water scarcity, food insecurity, and health risks are interconnected crises that require coordinated, cross-sectoral action.

As such, the most effective way to address biodiversity destruction and interconnected crises is to confront the underlying structural constraints that cut across sectors and crises. At the same time, upholding rights and equity is foundational to achieving sustainable and just outcomes for people and the planet.

It is imperative that Parties to the CBD take up the IPBES analyses in order to really stop biodiversity destruction. In this regard we call for the inclusion of all five strategies proposed by the transformative change assessment to be taken up in paragraph 7 of the draft recommendation. The missing strategies are:

- **Implement inclusive, accountable and adaptive governance systems;**
- **Transform dominant economic and financial paradigms so that they prioritize nature and social equity over private interests;**
- **Shift dominant societal views and values to recognize and prioritize human-nature interconnectedness;**

Continues on next page

Finally, it is imperative that there are a clear and defined pathway and process for work by the Secretariat and Parties by which transformative change can be realised in the work of the Convention and KMGBF. This should include text calling for the **(1) integration of work on transformative change in line with the transformative change assessment, and (2) consideration of the assessments by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation.**

Cut Subsidies, Not Forests

A call from NGOs on Biomass Action Day

Sophie Bastable & Peg Putt, Biomass Action Network

October 21st is the International Day of Action on Big Biomass, a collaborative effort between international organisations to expose the environmental and social impacts of biomass energy all around the world. Organised annually by the Environmental Paper Network's Biomass Action Network (BAN), this year, the central theme and rallying call is to "Cut Subsidies, Not Forests."

Governments worldwide are funnelling billions of dollars into subsidising burning trees for energy, with enormous adverse impacts on natural forests and the communities they support. Alarming, subsidies have unleashed a logging frenzy, intensifying and extending the degradation of some of the world's most important forests. This contradicts and undermines the efforts of protecting and restoring forests to support climate mitigation

Perversely, burning biomass is claimed to be a positive climate measure. Biomass energy is labelled as carbon neutral based on future potential regrowth of forests, but first it *increases* atmospheric carbon dioxide for decades. Per unit of energy, it emits at least as much as coal. Therefore, burning trees for energy provides no climate benefit.

Add to this the fact that harmful biomass subsidies divert money away from real renewables - such as wind and solar - and energy efficiency, which would genuinely cut emissions and are far cheaper than expensive biomass energy production.

Target 18 of the Global Biodiversity Framework commits Parties to identify, and eliminate or phase out subsidies that harm nature - urgently. This goal will never be achieved while the biomass industry is still receiving subsidies. This is why today, NGOs around the world are demanding that governments redirect biomass subsidies to better uses.



Read BAN's report on biomass subsidies out today "Burning Billions for Biomass" available here: <https://environmentalpaper.org/2025/10/burning-billions-for-biomass/>



The opinions, commentaries, and articles printed in ECO are the sole opinion of the individual authors or organisations, unless otherwise expressed.

Submissions are welcome from all civil society groups.
Email: flaus.gonzales@gmail.com