The critical role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in delivering successful NbS

CONCERNS ABOUT NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS AND ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

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THE MOVE IN THE WORLD TOWARDS THE GREEN ECONOMY

The world capitalist system made a move to the full commodification of nature since the beginning of the XXI century

- Expansion of the capitalist world system and of the western values.
  - Nature can only be protected when it has an economic value (pricing and marketing of nature’s economic services).
  - Nature exists only to meet people’s needs (anthropocentrism).
- First draft of the Future We want (Rio+20) proposed substituting sustainable development by a green economic model for all.

Bolivia resistance to the green economy

- More capitalism and capitalist solutions cannot solve but reinforce the global crisis that capitalism has created (climate change and biodiversity loss).
- There are different visions and approaches to achieve sustainable development (para 50, Agenda 2030 SD), let’s not neglect them.
- The world needs a new civilizational model based and inspired on ancestral and millennial societies’ worldviews: “The living well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth” (first UNEA session, resolution 1/10).
THE OPPOSITION BETWEEN TWO CIVILIZATIONAL PARADIGMS

GREEN ECONOMY
"Well-being"
- Anthropocentric
- Western view of the world
- Market-centric mindset

NATURE = OBJECT FOR HUMAN BEINGS EXPLOITATION

ECONOMY OF MOTHER EARTH
"Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth"
- Cosmocentric
- Polycentric
- Based on indigenous peoples’ views
- Non-market-centric mindset

MOTHER EARTH = LIVING BEING AND SACRED

GREEN ECONOMY: MEASURES AND SOLUTIONS

Evolution of the geopolitical context and multilateral discussions

- Attempts to delete the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) from environmental governance.
- Shifting the burden of environmental crisis to developing countries while giving flexibility to developed countries, imposing their aspirations as a global view.
- Financing focus on climate change and through the private sector (business and market-based approaches).
- Move towards a new environmental colonialism in the world by reinforcing western worldviews for solving the global environmental crisis; imposing new binding obligations for developing countries, and increasing dependence of developing countries’ to financial structures creating more indebtedness.

First generation measures

- Ecosystem services.
- Payments for ecosystem services (PES).
- Economic valuation and natural capital accounting.

Second generation solutions

- Global net zero / net gain (offsets).
- Nature-based solutions.
- Nature-positive.
THE LIVING WELL IN HARMONY WITH MOTHER EARTH

Need to establish a new civilizational horizon beyond capitalism, modernity and anthropocentrism

New pathways and alternative solutions for the world

- **United Nations:** establishment of the international day of Mother Earth, April 22 / proposal for the Declaration of the rights of Mother Earth.
- **UNEA:** Recognition at its first session of the approach of Living-Well in balance and harmony with Mother Earth.
- **IPBES:** Conceptual framework taking into account different ILKS, including Mother Earth; nature contributions to peoples to go beyond ES; recognizing nature intrinsic values; multiple values of biodiversity.
- **UNFCCC:** Joint mitigation and adaptation approaches alternative to results based payments (REDD+); framework for non-market approaches; Indigenous Peoples and local communities platform.
- **CBD:** Recognition of the collective action of IPLCs in addition to the role of the private and public sectors.
CRITICAL OBSERVATIONS TO THE FRAME OF NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

At the conceptual level

- Reinforce the anthropocentric paradigm (limiting the potential of development of different knowledge systems), thus conflicting with IPLCs’ worldviews.
- A tool to continue addressing the full commodification of nature/Mother Earth (net zero/ net gain/ nature-positive), and linked mostly to market-based approaches (offsets).
- A concept without identity used according to convenience and political interests (emphasis on mitigation at UNFCCC and on adaptation and restoration at CBD).
- A “capsule” undermining the scope and distorting the meaning of multilaterally agreed concepts: ecosystem-based approaches, sustainable management of natural resources, biodiversity-based economy, among others.

At the operational level

- Reinforce narratives and solutions to climate change that have serious problems and limitations: market solutions/ net-zero by 2050/ private sector as driver of innovative solutions).
- Lead to double counting of financing and commitments (biodiversity and climate change).
- Addressing biodiversity conservation through nature-positive/net gain approaches, diluting the need to enhance integrity of all ecosystems.
MOTHER EARTH-CENTRED ACTIONS

Actions based on cosmocentric and rights-based approaches, enabling harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature and the integrity of all living beings and ecosystems, while ensuring the non-commodification of the environmental functions of Mother Earth

- Recognize Mother Earth as a living being and subject of law.
- Relies on policy instruments that are not aimed to the commodification of nature’s environmental functions (non-market approaches).
- Integrate the cosmo/bio/ecocentric view of indigenous peoples of living in harmony with Mother Earth in countries’ policies, programs and projects.
- Facilitate the epistemological parity between western-world modern science and eastern-world ancestral science strengthening inter-scientific dialogue among them.
- Promote economies of reciprocity, solidarity and cooperation for wealth redistribution, avoiding individuals’ economic accumulation and inequities;
- Respect to all forms of life in the planet, avoiding artificial and synthetic life and transhumanism.
- Enhance indigenous peoples and local communities’ participation in the management of systems of life and ecosystems, recognizing social, economic, juridic, political and cultural plurality, among other aspects.
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