

Will 'conservation' save biodiversity?

Simon Counsell

Draft Target 3 of the GBF:

“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 managed, ecologically representative and well-connected ***systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures***, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”

Draft Target 1 of the GBF:

“Ensure that **all land and sea areas globally are under integrated biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning** addressing land- and sea-use change, retaining existing intact and wilderness areas”.

Draft Target 8 of the GBF:

*“Target 8. Minimize the impact of climate change on biodiversity, contribute to mitigation and adaptation through ecosystem-based approaches, **contributing at least 10 GtCO₂ e per year to global mitigation efforts,** and ensure that all mitigation and adaptation efforts avoid negative impacts on biodiversity.”*



678 million hectares

The result?

30-50% of the planet is put under some kind of restricted use, in areas defined through large-scale and rapid government-led spatial planning, and at least partly funded by the sale of carbon credits to polluters.



Will global spatial planning save the world's biodiversity? (No, it won't.) For those engaged in developing the new Global Biodiversity Framework: four lessons from the past, and a warning for the future

Posted on 11 February 2022



By Simon Counsell

PROBLEM: Spatial planning could be a disaster – for biodiversity and for IPLCs

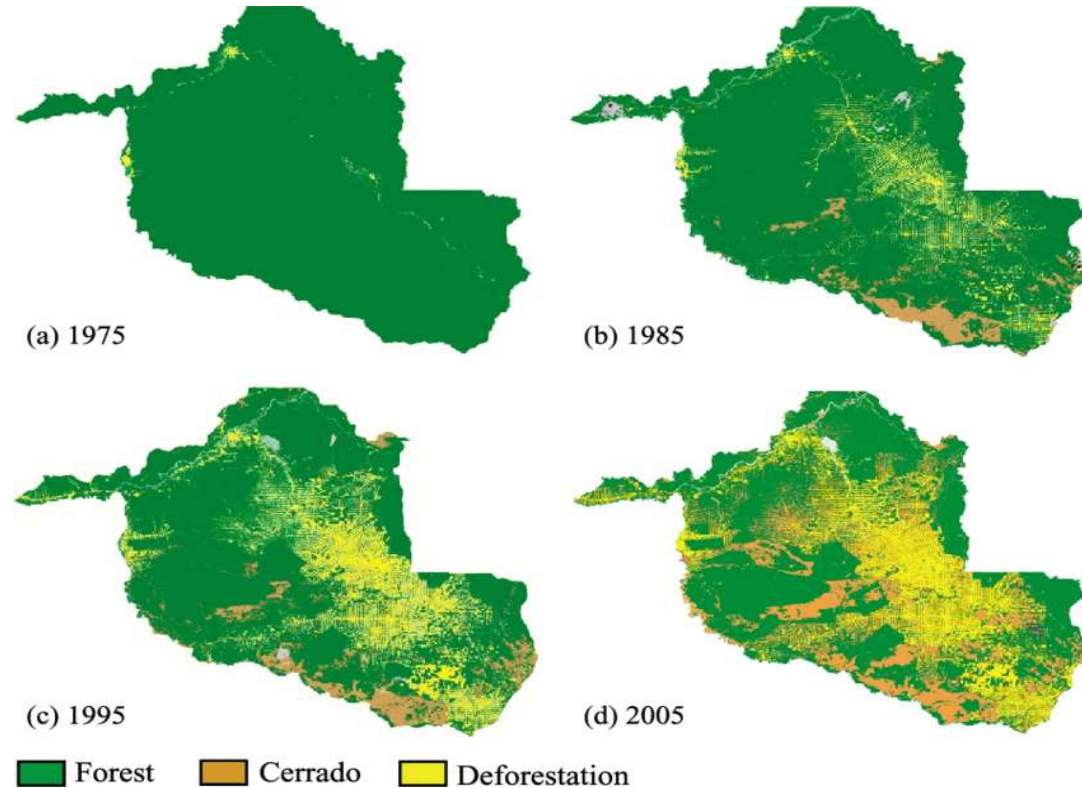


payment for the des- and buildings but not

The Transmigration programme involves the mass movement of millions of landless poor from the central Indonesian islands of Java, Madura, Bali and Lombok to the less densely populated out islands.



Cleared jungle in Kalimantan. Only public protest can now stop this tragic misdirection of aid.



(a) 1975

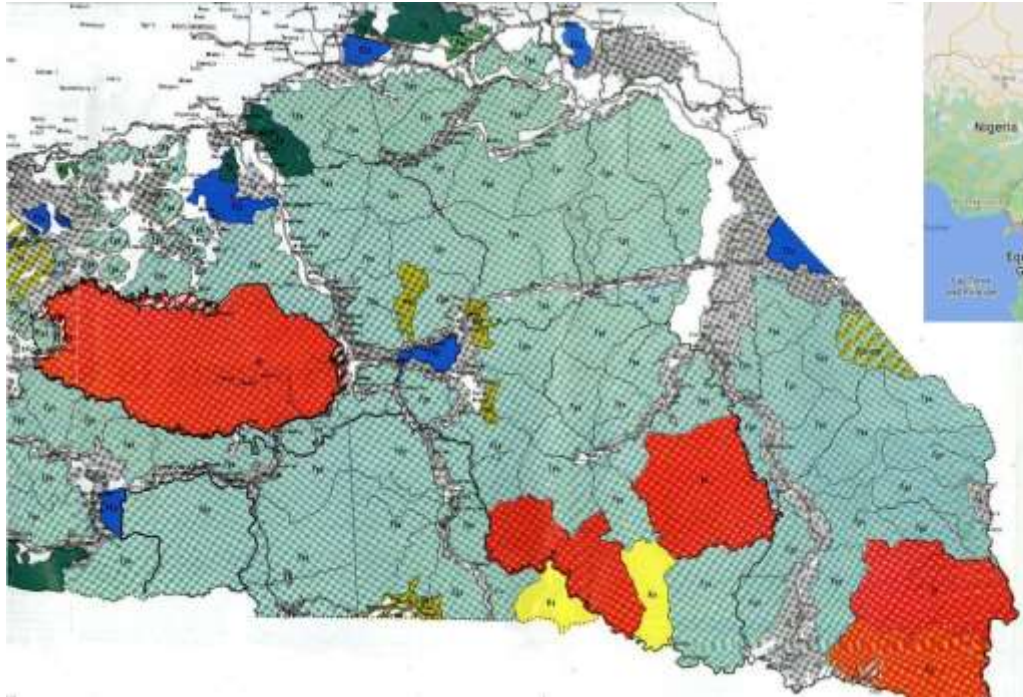
(b) 1985

(c) 1995

(d) 2005

Forest Cerrado Deforestation

PROBLEM: Spatial planning could be a disaster – for biodiversity and for IPLCs



PROBLEM: '30x30' could lead to increased 'green land-grabbing' and human rights abuses



Report: WWF knew about rights abuses by park rangers, but didn't respond effectively

by Ashoka Mukpo on 8 December 2020

WWF'S SECRET WAR

WWF Funds Guards Who Have Tortured And Killed People

The World Wide Fund for Nature funds vicious paramilitary forces to fight poachers. BuzzFeed News investigation reveals the hidden human cost.

Tom Warren
Investigations Correspondent

Katie J.M. Baker
BuzzFeed News Investigative Reporter

Posted on March 4, 2019, at 3:26 a.m. ET

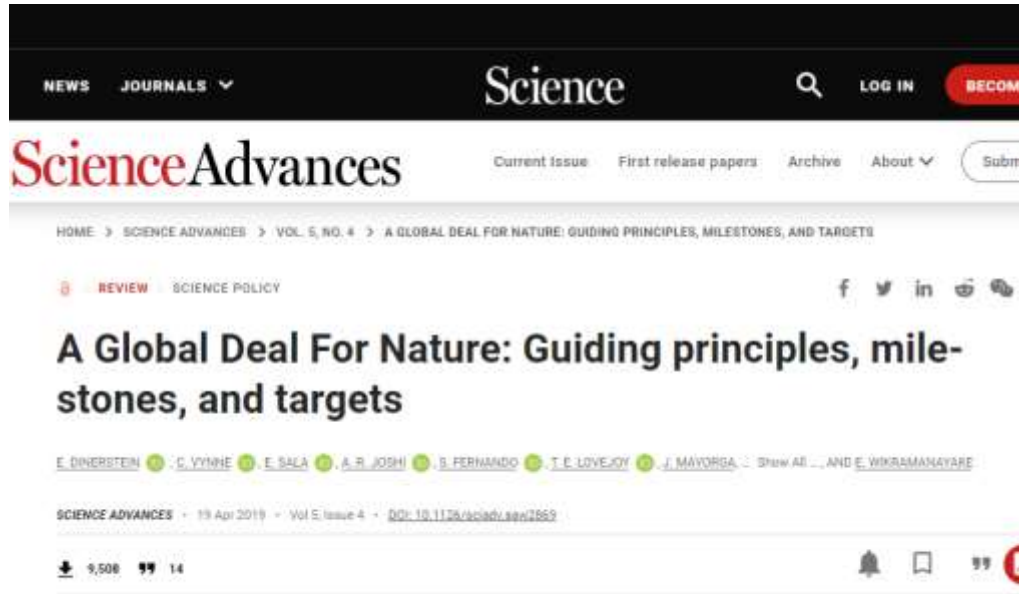


PROBLEM: Is '30x30' supported by science?

“Many recent proposals converge around protecting 30 per cent or more of the land and sea surface by 2030, with the possibility of higher targets established subsequently”

Secretariat of the CBD, April 2021

- Different strategies for 'saving biodiversity'
- Existing parks are inefficient, badly located, and often badly managed
- Better existing parks could protect a lot more species
- Increasing area of parks might not help biodiversity
- Percentage-based targets have "perverse outcomes"
- Focus should be on ***biodiversity outcomes***
- Increasing protected areas could just distract from the need to address ***underlying causes*** of biod. loss.



Abstract

The Global Deal for Nature (GDN) is a time-bound, science-driven plan to save the diversity and abundance of life on Earth. Pairing the GDN and the Paris Climate Agreement would avoid catastrophic climate change, conserve species, and secure essential ecosystem services. New findings give urgency to this union: Less than half of the terrestrial realm is intact, yet conserving all native ecosystems—coupled with energy transition measures—will be required to remain below a 1.5°C rise in average global temperature. The GDN targets 30% of Earth to be formally protected and an additional 20% designated as climate stabilization areas, by 2030, to stay below 1.5°C. We highlight the 67% of terrestrial ecoregions that can meet 30% protection, thereby



“There’s no scientific basis for 30 percent...**It’s arbitrary**...The inside story is that we thought that 50 percent by 2030 would just be unpalatable”

**“a 30% area–based target for protection by 2030
...effectively **already exists** when accounting for indigenous
land”**

***If* they are:**

**“formally acknowledged by governments as other area
based effective conservation measures (OECMs)”**

- **Cause more loss of IPLC land and rights, and human rights abuses;**
- **Distract from addressing underlying causes of biodiversity loss;**
- **Distract from the need to address the inefficiency and bad governance of existing protected areas;**
- **Lead to large scale land planning that further reduces IPLC rights;**
- **Commodify nature to produce carbon credits which will generate funds for conservationists, but also impinge on IPLC rights;**
- **Not save biodiversity, and quite possibly even accelerate its loss.**

Target:

“Build and implement the governance systems necessary to ensure that the loss of all Earth's ecosystems is halted, primarily through ensuring that the communities most adapted to sustainable use of land and protection of biodiversity have secure rights over their lands, livelihoods and cultures, and are able to plan and execute the management, conservation and restoration of ecosystems.”

Target

“Ensure that all countries have updated national biodiversity action plans that clearly identify the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, including where impacts are felt in other countries, and have developed and implemented effective measures to address these.”

**THANKS
FOR
LISTENING**

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