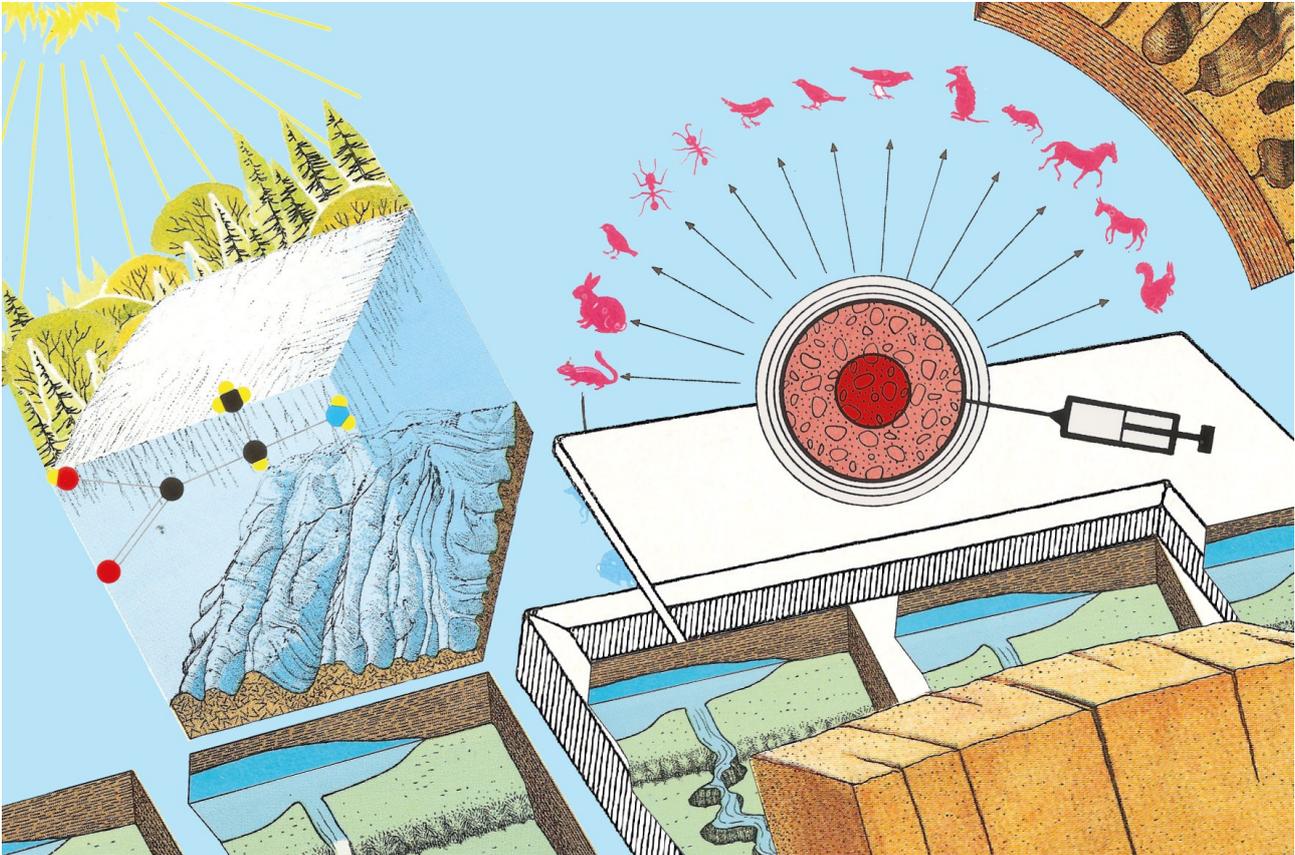


# Contested Nature



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## Contested Nature:

### **Land use, climate protection and new genetic technologies in the context of the debate on the protection of biological diversity**

*Online conference series (via Zoom) in four parts in German, English and Spanish*

The issue is even bigger than climate change alone: Research is alerting us to the dramatic destruction of the natural foundations of life on Earth and warning of a sixth mass extinction. As early as 2010 – under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) – the international community committed to halting the global loss of biodiversity by 2020. Not only has this goal been missed; the global extinction of species has actually accelerated.

The next Conference of the Parties to the CBD (COP 15), postponed to 2021, is therefore of enormous importance: International biodiversity policy needs to establish a new framework and decide on new goals.

But the potential for conflict is great and there is a wide range of considerations vying for attention. Many, highly diverse interests are at play with regard to the protection, use and marketing of biological diversity. The focus in this regard is on questions of land use and access to natural resources as well as issues

pertaining to assessing the impact of technology and its regulation.

*Contested Nature: Land use, climate protection and new genetic technologies in the context of the debate on the protection of biological diversity*, a series of events jointly organized by **Brot für die Welt**, the **Heinrich Böll Foundation**, **Save Our Seeds** and the **Centre for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America (FDCL)**, will therefore hone in on complex issues that often receive little attention in traditional nature conservation debates. In this context, we will also address the question of political influence on the CBD and the opportunities for and obstacles to civil-society engagement. The four online conferences will be held in German, English and Spanish.

### Online conference series „Contested Nature“

***(registration and more information see below!):***

#### **1. UN Convention on Biological Diversity at a crossroads?**

24 September 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CEST), (DE, EN, ES)

#### **2. Gene drives – protecting people and nature through genetic extermination?**

15 October 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CEST), (DE, EN, ES, FR)

#### **3. Who will profit from biological diversity in the future? Digital sequence information (DSI) and its potential for new forms of biopiracy**

29 October 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CET), (DE, EN, ES)

#### **4. Saving biodiversity and the climate with “natural climate solutions”?**

18 November 2020, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm (CET), (DE, EN, ES)

#### **Zoom-Disclaimer**

*Please be advised that online events will be held using the software provided by Zoom. Depending on the type of event (that is, with or without audience participation), you may require a computer equipped with camera, speakers or headphones and / or a microphone in order to be able to take part.*

*You may either use the software client or the app. The internet browsers Chrome and Edge will enable you to participate simply via an access link. Further information on how to use Zoom is available [here](#).*

***The access information will be sent to you via e-mail 24 h prior to the event and, again, 2 h prior to the event.***

All events are subject to [our privacy policy](#). The Heinrich Böll Foundation is not liable for issues arising from the use of Zoom software. The current Zoom privacy policy is available [here](#).

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# Contested Nature (1)

*Online conference series in four parts jointly organized by Brot für die Welt, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Save Our Seeds and the Centre for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America (FDCL)*

## UN Convention on Biological Diversity at a crossroads?

**24 September 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CEST) // [Register now!](#)**

We cannot survive on a planet that consists only of spruce forests, cornfields and industrial pig farms. Our way of producing and consuming threatens the fragile web of life. A look at the state of our ecosystems shows an alarming extent of destruction of natural habitats and loss of biodiversity. The scientific community is warning of a sixth mass extinction.

2021 will be a key year for the protection of biodiversity. The 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD aims to create a new framework for the United Nations' international biodiversity policy. In view of Covid-19, the pressure to act is even greater, as the increasing destruction of nature is increasing the risk of pandemics. The wildlife trade, illegal deforestation, extraction of raw materials, industrial agriculture and, above all, animal rearing are all in need of a thorough review. But what can the international community contribute in this regard? How can we assess progress toward the CBD objectives? What are the lines of conflict and hurdles on the way to COP 15? And what are the demands of civil society? We are launching our "Contested Nature" online conference series with a statement of where we stand and an outlook, with a particular highlight on those aspects that are usually neglected in the nature conservation debate.

### Guests:

- **Barbara Unmüßig** (President, Heinrich Böll Foundation)
- **David Cooper** (Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention on Biological Diversity –CBD)
- **Chee Yoke Ling** (Director, Third World Network)
- **Gunther Beger** (Head of Department 1 – Policy Issues, Economy, Trade, Rural Development; German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development – BMZ)
- **Presenter:** Christiane Grefe (author, *Global Gardening: Bioökonomie - Neuer Raubbau oder Wirtschaftsform der Zukunft?* [Bioeconomy - New Overexploitation or Economic Form of the Future?]) and editor, Die ZEIT)

*Languages: simultaneous interpreting in German, English, Spanish*

*Free of charge*

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# Contested Nature (2)

*Online conference series in four parts jointly organized by Brot für die Welt, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Save Our Seeds and the Centre for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America (FDCL)*

## Gene drives – protecting people and nature through genetic extermination?

*15 October 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CEST) // **Register now!***

The UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) has been concerned with the regulation of modern biotechnology for many years. Gene drive technology is particularly controversial in this context. With this new form of genetic engineering, wild animal and plant populations or species could be genetically modified, replaced or even eradicated in the future. Its developers hope that it will eradicate the malaria mosquito, decimate imported rats and mice to protect threatened ecosystems, and manage so-called pests in agriculture. Gene drives override the basic rules of evolution and natural selection and pass on 100 percent of selected traits to all offspring – even if those traits are harmful or deadly to the organisms. Gene drive technology opens up a new dimension in human intervention in nature and harbors innumerable risks.

Using the example of gene drives to combat malaria, this online seminar will show how the technology works, who is developing, financing and promoting its application, what risks it poses, how it is being discussed in affected countries, and why the UN Convention on Biological Diversity is fighting for a global moratorium on its use.

### Guests:

- **Dr. Ricarda Steinbrecher** (molecular biologist and geneticist, board member of the European Network of Scientists for Social and Environmental Responsibility – ENSSER)
- **Ali Tapsoba de Goamma** (speaker for CCAE, Collectif Citoyen pour l'Agroécologie, Burkina Faso)
- **Dr. Andreas Wulf** (expert in global health issues, Medico International)
- **Mareike Imken** (head of the European Stop Gene Drive campaign, Save Our Seeds)
- **Presenter:** Christiane Grefe

*Languages: simultaneous interpreting in German, English, Spanish, French*

*Free of charge*

**Contact:** Mareike Imken, Save Our Seeds, E: [imken@saveourseeds.org](mailto:imken@saveourseeds.org)

# Contested Nature (3)

*Online conference series in four parts jointly organized by Brot für die Welt, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Save Our Seeds and the Centre for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America (FDCL)*

## Who will profit from biological diversity in the future? Digital sequence information (DSI) and its potential for new forms of biopiracy

29 October 2020, 4:30 - 6:00 pm (CET) // **[Register now!](#)**

In the 2000s, the appropriation of genetic resources, especially from the biodiversity-rich countries of the global South, by transnational corporations based in OECD countries was criticized and scandalized as “biopiracy”. Cases of biopiracy were based on the physical transfer of plant material and its use in the development of various products (medicines, food, cosmetics) for which intellectual property rights were then registered with patent authorities.

The Nagoya Protocol, which was adopted ten years ago at the tenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD-COP 10) and entered into force a few years later, stipulates that countries whose genetic resources are used should receive an appropriate share of the benefits and revenues arising from the use of such resources and associated knowledge (access and benefit sharing – ABS). However, the protocol can be circumvented with increasing ease by the unhindered transfer of digital sequence information (DSI) on genetic resources. This is because new genetic engineering and biotechnological methods (genome editing and synthetic biology) make it possible to use only digitally recorded sequence information of genetic resources for the modification of genetic material to create new characteristics of organisms – and the recording and electronic storage of all possible information concerning genetic resources is taking place at a rapid pace. In view of this, dealing with DSI and its inclusion in the provisions of the Nagoya Protocol has become an important new area of conflict in the international biodiversity debate that could lead to the failure of the next conference of the CBD (COP 15).

The international community is faced with very familiar and yet new questions: Who owns genetic information, who is allowed to use it and how, and to whom do the profits from the products developed from it belong? How should the current practice of the regulations of the Nagoya Protocol be assessed and what potential does DSI hold for new forms of biopiracy? Which demands are essential for the upcoming international negotiations on benefit sharing for DSI – especially from a perspective of solidarity with rural, indigenous and traditional communities and with biodiversity-rich countries of the global South?

### Guests:

- **Edward Hammond** (Director, Prickly Research, and consultant for the Third World Network, USA)
- **Dr. Hartmut Meyer** (Team Leader, ABS Capacity Development Initiative, implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH)
- **Alejandro Argumedo** (Program Director, Andes Amazon Lead, Swift Foundation, Peru)
- **Presenter:** Christiane Grefe

*Languages: simultaneous interpreting in German, English, Spanish*

*Free of charge*

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# Contested Nature (4)

*Online conference series in four parts jointly organized by Brot für die Welt, the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Save Our Seeds and the Centre for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America (FDCL)*

## **Saving biodiversity and the climate with “natural climate solutions”?**

*18 November, 11:00 am - 12:30 pm (CET) // **Register now!***

Land use is increasingly becoming a source of hope for the future in international climate policy. The expectations are huge: According to estimates, up to 37% of the emission savings needed to remain below the 2°C mark could come from “natural climate solutions” such as reduced deforestation, reforestation and agriculture.

While the food vs. fuel conflict prompted by biofuel production has already highlighted the conflicting goals of land-based climate protection measures, new dimensions have arisen in the meantime that are placing land in the focus of global climate policy to an even greater extent. “Climate neutrality” has become the new goal in the fight against global warming. This would entail states, cities and companies only emitting as much CO<sub>2</sub> as can be removed from the atmosphere elsewhere. Nature-based solutions are thus directly linked to the perspective of global compensation mechanisms, and climate policy is coming further into the focus of existing conflicts over land and its use. Food security, preservation of ecosystems and biodiversity – all of this must be achieved on the very same land, which is now also to be used to achieve climate goals to an increasing degree.

What contribution can natural carbon sinks actually make? How can the protection of biodiversity and food security, as well as the land and human rights of local populations be reconciled? What course must be set for this at the UN climate negotiations and the UN biodiversity summit next year?

### **Guests:**

- **Kate Dooley** (environmental scientist, University of Melbourne)
- **Coraina de la Plaza** (Global Forest Coalition)
- **Karsten Sach** (Head of the International Cooperation sub-department, German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety), tbc
- **Gilles Dufrasne** (Carbon Market Watch), tbc
- **Presenter:** Christiane Grefe

*Languages: simultaneous interpreting in German, English, Spanish*

*Free of charge*

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