



SDC A+FS Network

Thoughts for Food

A series of light & informal events on food-systems related news



WELCOME !

11 January 2023

What's being offered today?

1. Introduction
2. Feedback on the negotiations, key challenges, results and way forward after the Convention on Biological Diversity's COP15
3. Network space
4. News & updates
5. Sustainable for Whom? A critical view on the SDGs

Food Systems Learning Journey

Region Nr.2: MENA | Focus Water

12th January | 10-11:30h CET | online

Region Nr.1 & 3: West, East & Southern Africa

25th January | 10-11:30h CET | online



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WE ARE FOOD SYSTEMS



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First presentation



Global Youth Biodiversity Network



Youth Engagement CBD COP 15:

7-19 DECEMBER 2022 | MONTREAL,
CANADA



Japan Biodiversity Fund



Convention on Biological Diversity



The post-2020 GBF is >>>>
set to be adopted at

CBD COP15

15th meeting of the Conference
of the Parties to the Convention
on Biological Diversity

UN Biodiversity Conference

Montreal, Canada
December 7-19, 2022



2020 UN BIODIVERSITY CONFERENCE

COP 15 - CP/MOP10-NP/MOP4

Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth

KUNMING · CHINA

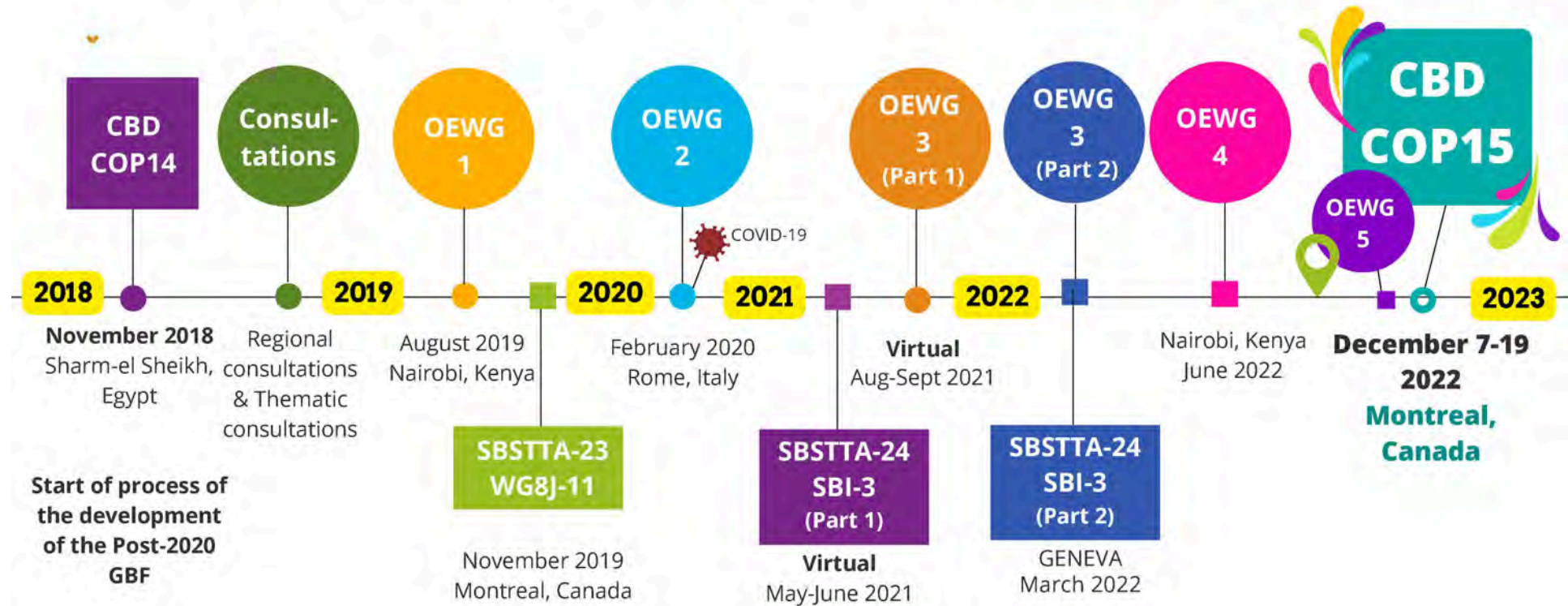
POST-2020 GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

The world's decision-makers are negotiating a **Global Framework** that will set out **goals and targets to address biodiversity loss within the next decades** and move towards **Living in Harmony with Nature**.

The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity is being negotiated under the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.



The (Long) Road to CBD COP15



OEWG - Open-ended Working Group on the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework

Post-2020 GBF Drafts



The Post-2020 GBF

A. Back-ground

B. Purpose

E. 2050 Vision - Living in Harmony with Nature

C. 2030 Agenda

D. Theory of Change

E. 2030 Mission

Goal A - Conservation

Goal B - Sustainable Use

Goal C - Fair & Equitable Benefit-sharing

Goal D - Means of Implementation

1. Reducing threats to biodiversity

2. Meeting people's Needs

T1 T2 T3 T4
T5 T6 T7 T8

T9 T10
T11 T12

T13

3. Tools and solutions for implementation and mainstreaming

T14

T15

T16

T17

T18

T19.1

T19.2

T20

T21

T22

Monitoring Framework

B.bis - Principles / Fundamental Premises

H. Implementation & Support Mechanisms

I. Enabling Conditions

J. Responsibility & Transparency

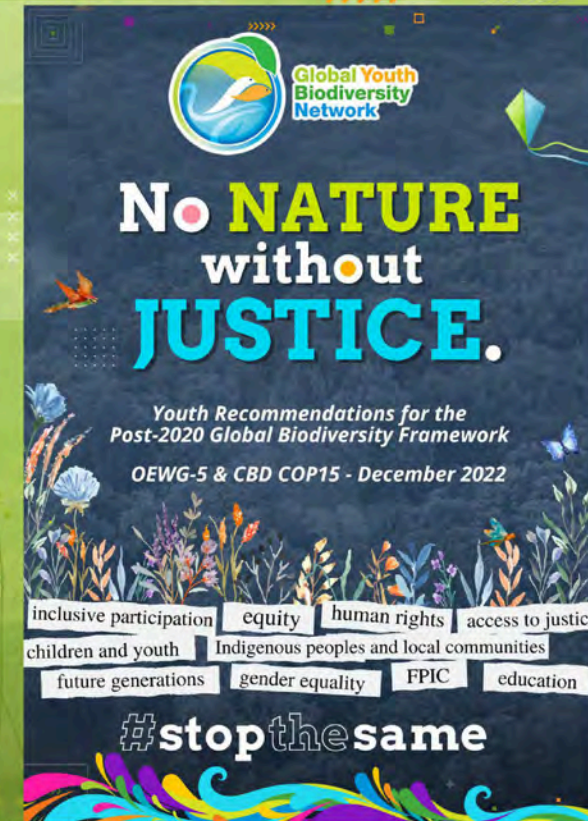
K. Communication, education, awareness & uptake

GYBN COP15 Policy Priorities

The youth priorities for the GBF were identified through more than 28 youth consultations on the framework, which brought together over 1,000 young people from more than 100 countries. A dedicated youth policy team worked months before COP15 to transform the youth priorities gathered in these consultation into specific policy proposals.

The complete list of GYBN recommendations can be viewed here:

gybn.org/advocacy-paper-cop15



Wins in the COP15 Policy Outcomes

Youth efforts at COP15 have contributed to unprecedented recognition for the links between social inequities and environmental damage, as expressed in the Global Biodiversity Framework. It now features calls for:

- Intergenerational equity
- Inclusive Participation
- Access to justice
- Human rights-based approaches
- Gender equality
- Respect for the rights of Indigenous peoples and local communities
- Transformative Education



Gaps in the COP15 Policy Outcomes

Despite major wins in the GBF document, youth express deep alarm that the framework maintains dysfunctional and destructive business-as-usual approaches:

- False solutions for biodiversity, including biodiversity offsets and credits, nature-based solutions that lack clear safeguards, and sustainable intensification
- Lack of strong calls to regulate businesses and hold them accountable as key drivers of biodiversity loss
- A deep lack of ambition for resource mobilization that would allow the implementation of the framework, with insufficient funding commitments from developed countries
- An open door to unregulated private funding schemes that would not follow the principles of the GBF





GYBN COP15 Agriculture



**39 youth engaged on discussions
online / in person**



- **Creation of GYBN Agriculture Team, all regions represented**
- **Engagement and dialogues with different actors of Mexico, Canada, EU, Norway, Australia, Bolivia, Swatini, Philippines**
- **Two interventions prepared, not delivered but sent to parties**
- **GYBN Lobby one-pager document on Agriculture shared with parties**
- **Engagement with IFAD**
- **Main discussions: agroecology, pesticides, food security, intergenerational justice,**





SAY HI!

Let's quickly reconnect

You'll be randomly assigned to a small group.

In the group, simply take a minute to say hi and introduce yourself.



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WHAT'S NEW?

Defending Peasants' Rights: Platform of rural struggles in action

All the knowledge and experience on the UNDROP in one place.

[Learn more](#)

 **DEFENDING PEASANTS' RIGHTS**



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FIAN
INTERNATIONAL



Reframing the local–global food systems debate through a resilience lens

Received: 25 November 2021

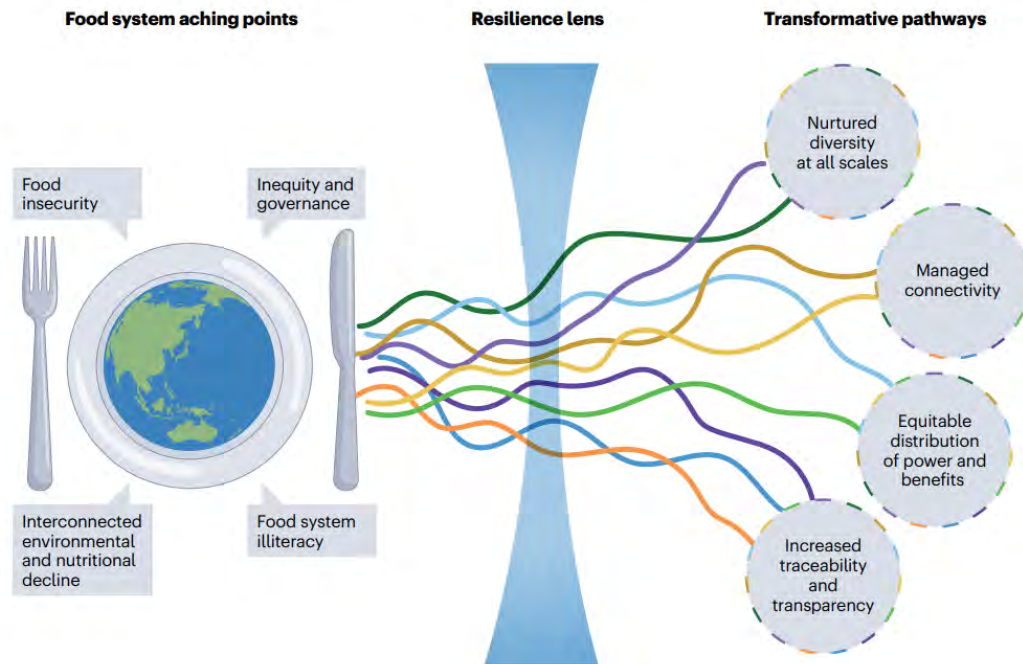
Accepted: 4 November 2022

Published online: 09 January 2023

Check for updates

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Despite the growing knowledge that food system solutions should account for interactions and drivers across scales, broader societal debate on how to solve food system challenges is often focused on two dichotomous perspectives and associated solutions: either more localized food systems or greater global coordination of food systems. The debate has found problematic expressions in contemporary challenges, prompting us to



Food System Transformation: Revisiting the Role of Resilience Thinking

Applying the seven principles of resilience to central points of tension in the local-global debate

[Learn more](#)



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Progress in African Food Systems: What do the Data say?

Utilizing the Food Systems
Dashboard

[Learn more](#)



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Food Systems Dashboard



Transforming Nutrition: UN-Nutrition Vol. 1

How countries are considering nutrition in their national food system transformation pathways

[Read more](#)



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2022 Global Nutrition Report:

The role of accountability and its ability to transform action to tackle the nutrition crisis

[Learn more](#)



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Second presentation

SDC-Meeting January 11, 2023,
Agriculture and Food Systems Network
Thoughts for Food

Sustainable for Whom?

A critical view on the SDGs

Tobias Haller, Institute for Social Anthropology, University of Bern

2 main problematic issues and strategies:



1 A) because **common property is not recognized** in the SDGs → **state elites and private sector can continue to legitimate commons grabbing**
B) leaving out the commons **reduces local power claiming for participation.**
→ two policy demands crystalize:

7 - **Control that SDGs is not the abbreviation of «Sanctioning Disciplined Grabs», especially on indigenous territories**
- **Ensure that local commoners (farmers, fishers and nomads), can develop alternatives during the implementation phases.**

13 → **Propose strategies on including the commons in the implementation of the SDGs and how local commoners can and already do develop alternatives during the implementation phase.**

A grid of 17 Sustainable Development Goal icons, each with a number and a title, serving as a background for the text. The icons include: 1. No Poverty, 2. Zero Hunger, 3. Good Health and Well-being, 4. Quality Education, 5. Gender Equality, 6. Clean Water and Sanitation, 7. Affordable and Clean Energy, 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth, 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, 10. Reduced Inequalities, 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities, 12. Responsible Consumption and Production, 13. Climate Action, 14. Life Below Water, 15. Life on Land, 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, 17. Partnerships for Sustainable Development.

Critical reading of the SDGs: 17 goals fail because (see Haller et al 2018)

- **Despite NGOs involvement SDGs only address state level and the private sector** and not other organisations of local resource governance (local farmer, peasant, hunter gatherer and indigenous groups)
- **Lacks** a historical, political-economy and ecology analysis of **root causes why pollution and degradation happens** (an old and important element of Political Ecology)
- Leads to an uncritical construction of «**we all can achieve development and sustainability**» → **does not address power asymmetries** on all scales hidden behind the 'WE'

Critical reading of the SDGs: 17 goals fail because (see Haller et al 2018) II

- **Misreading cultural landscape ecosystem often of indigenous peoples as «pure nature»** (colonial legacy)
- **Does not recognize local resource property rights** (often commons) and the historical and contemporary **institutional transformation to state and private property since colonial times** → **grabbing processes**
- Is **not interested in local & indigenous peoples participation** and **participatory formulations** of new goals & local institutions, despite **SDG 17 on participation**
- The **only actors who are participating** are powerful **environmental NGOs** and the so-called private sectors (**multinational companies**)

Source: Haller et al 2018. Paradigm Shift or Old wine in new bottles: Debating and Reformulating SDGs— an Experiment:
https://www.anthro.unibe.ch/unibe/portal/fak_historisch/dkk/anthro/content/e40416/e96353/e96354/files747906/SDG_Text_Final_ger.pdf

4 issues to be known regarding absence of the commons in SDGs

- 1) From the **Tragedy of the Commons** (Hardin) to **debate** based on social anthropology literature used by Ostrom: **Local governance of the commons is empirically proven possible**
- 2) Commons are **NOT open access** but **membership and local institutions** (rules and regulations regarding sharing, monitoring and sanctioning)
- 3) **Many natural resources are commons-pool resources** (pastures, forestry, water, fisheries, wildlife, etc.) and common property institutions have not only successfully managed them but **created diverse cultural landscape ecosystems** with ecosystem functions
- 4) Often also **incorporating other ontology** including spiritual views and ritually driven coordination of resource use

→ **Value of commons for SDGs and root causes of undermining common property → failed state property and privatisation not recognized** → studies in Zambia, Sierra Leone, Land Matrix:

Pr

Managing the commons and its flows of fisheries in the Kafue Flats



Pre-colonial fisheries as common property of Ila, Balundwe, Batwa ethnic groups:

- institutions adapted to seasonal floods
- Collective fishing events in ponds/river sections by big men: membership and coordination/timing, reciprocity, gendered
- Coordination by ritual master (*utamba*), monitoring and spiritual sanctions (crocodiles)
- Not conservation but restriction for gain/distributional compromise, role of prestige of leader with fair distribution → **sustainable use**

Institutional change: State control of flows and de facto open access in the fisheries



- **fisheries transferred to state property** for commercial reasons with **state laws and regulations**; **no recognition of indigenous rules**
- **State failure: little staff while high prices for fish** → **de facto open access** for **seasonally immigrant fishermen (camps)** who **don't respect state AND local institutions** → **drastic decline of stocks by 2002/3**

2) Sierra Leone: Addax Biofuels (CH): Sugar Cane Plantations among Temne (Marfurt et al 2016)

- Transformation of **first-comers to land owners** and **commons to state and private property**;
- **compensations for them** and not for secondary users;
- **loss of commons of palm fruits (for cash)** and **water** for small scale irrigation (women producing vegetables)

→ **loss of cash income** for women and marginal groups (*Marfurt, Käser, Lustenberger 2016*)



3) Land cover analysis of 139 locally geo-referenced deals (Giger et al 2016, 2019)



Share of deals	
Cropland mosaics	35%
Forest land	34%
Shrub- and grassland	25%
Marginal and other land	6%

- Investor compete with farming communities
- 79 % of deals in Africa are within a daytrip from nearest city (accessibility < 6h);
- 52% of all deals globally target areas with population densities > 25 persons/km²

Open debate on land categories but all contain common-pool resources

What happened during the SDG-Debate?

- Despite research evidence, **commons and common property as well as commons grabbing have never been issues in the SDGs**
- While **NGOs** were able to speak up, **little final influence on several formulations of the SDGs in the hands of government officials and administrators**
- **Discussions on root cause were not addressed** with reference to **diplomacy and lack of measurability of SDGs**
- **Broad formulation in order to leave no government behind...**
- **Power asymmetries in the discussions**
- **Very few critical debates on what development and sustainability means and who defines this**

(see Fukuda-Parr 2015 and others)

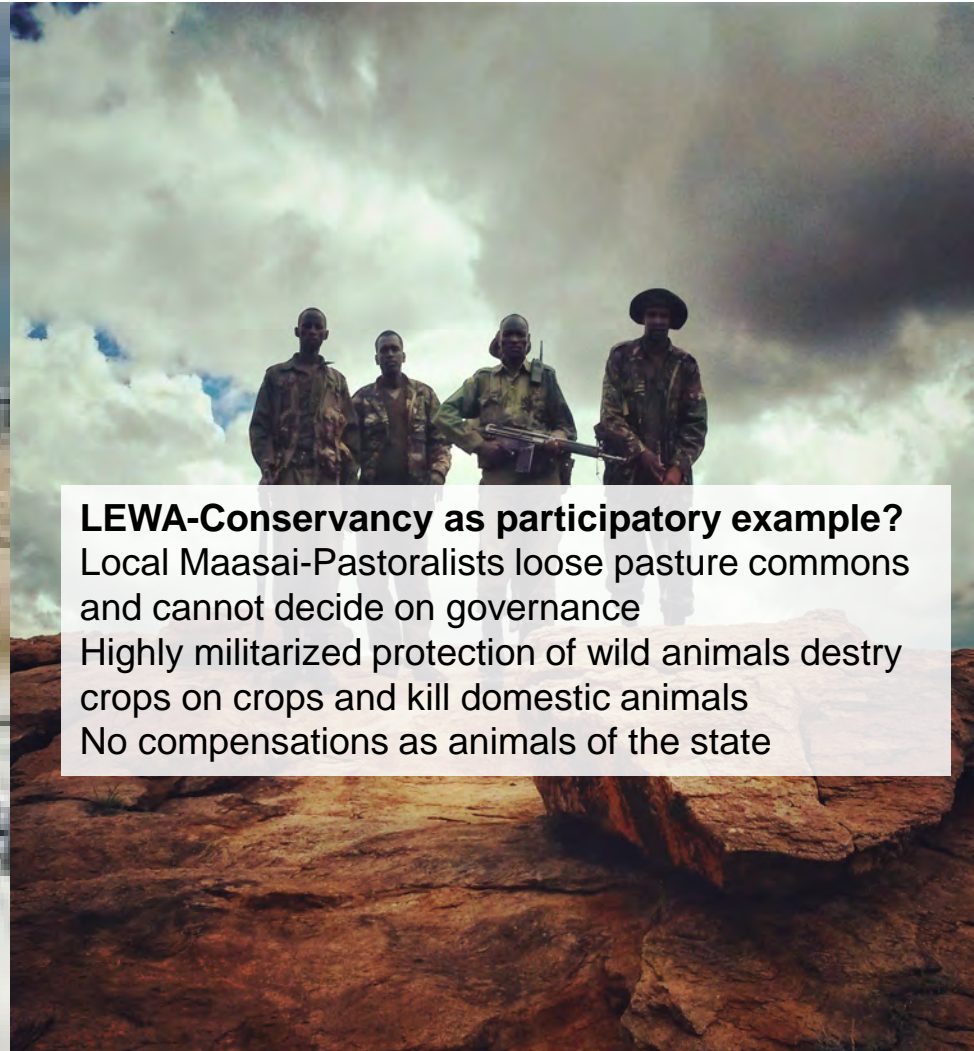
Threat of enlarging dispossession via SDGs if commons are not addressed

- **Agro-industrial sectors** (land grabbing, deforestation → biofuel and palm oil industries in Africa and Asia)
 - **Green energy** such as solar and wind energy (solar farms and large scale windmill projects on indigenous lands (cases in Kenya and Norway)
 - **Bauxite mining** → for electric & climate smart cars in Mozambique and in the Andes
 - **Top down development schemes** (i.e. conservation agriculture, aquaculture, etc.) see for example SACGOT corridor in Tanzania
 - **Mega-Infrastructure** become sustainable → commons grabbing in the fisheries by ports (LAPPSET)
 - **Fortress conservation**/(Half Earth and 30 by 30) → massive extension of protected areas and conservancies in many African countries
- **Two case studies from Kenya**: LAPSSET corridor and LEWA conservancy in which SDGs are involved:

2 cases: LAPSSET Port Lamu and LEWA conservancy in Kenya



Large Port as part of the LAPPSET (Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport Corridor) legitimised by SDG 9 (Infrastructure) destroying local fishery commons and not providing long term jobs but undermining sustainable tourism



LEWA-Conservancy as participatory example?
Local Maasai-Pastoralists loose pasture commons and cannot decide on governance
Highly militarized protection of wild animals destroy crops on crops and kill domestic animals
No compensations as animals of the state

Summary: 5 threats of the SDGs

- **Not addressing root causes of environmental destruction → → increasing wealth inequality in the world of 1%**
- **Misreading cultural landscape ecosystem as «pure nature»**
- **Does not recognize grabbing processes (land grabbing as commons and green grabbing) by state and private sector**
- **Is not interested in local participation and participatory formulations of new goals & local institutions**
- **Danger of becoming the abbreviation of Sanctioning Disciplined Grabs**

Strategies and Opportunities...?

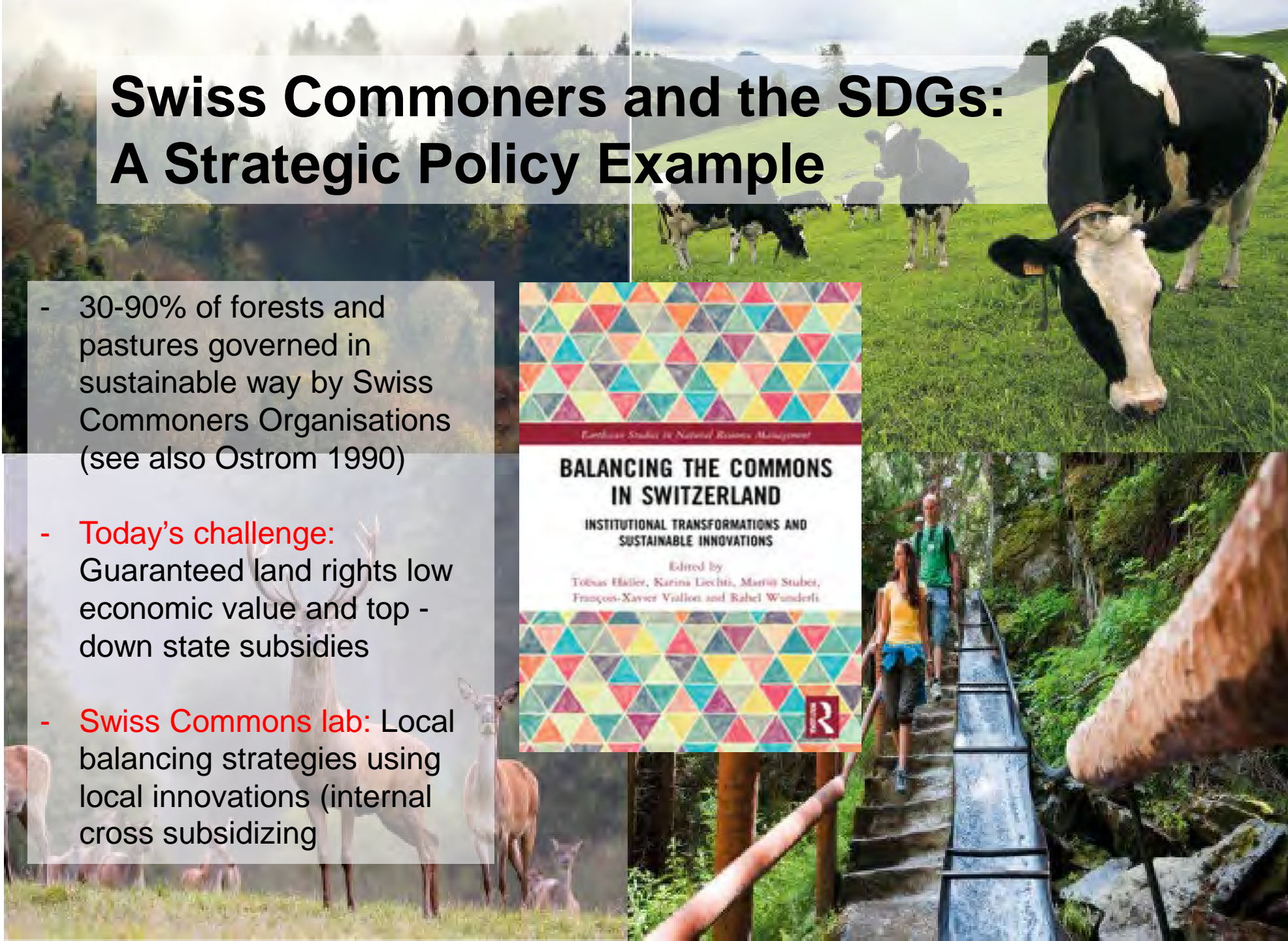
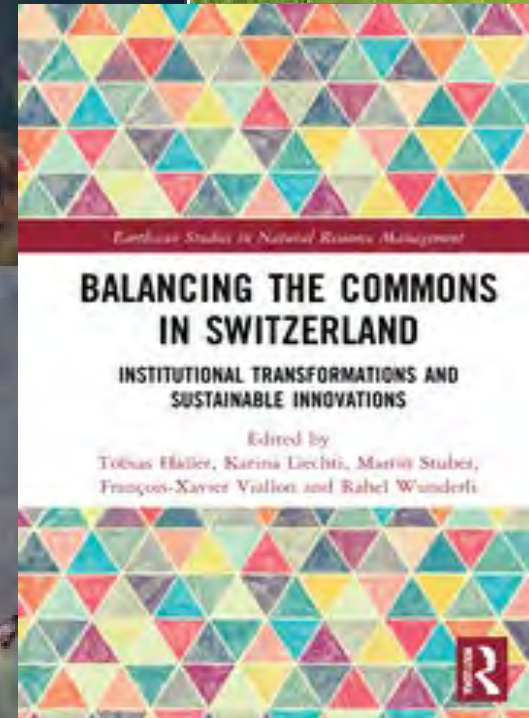
- While **SDGs** are written, they **cannot be rewritten** (...but see what comes out as an experiment in Haller et al 2018)
- **Strategy I:** Central importance for research: Do **research and document on how the use of SDGs enable and legitimize commons grabbing** processes in indigenous territories by state and private sector and document them → see also ICCAs
- **Strategy II as opportunity:** Sneaking in via **policy strategy in the nations' implementation process bringing in the issue of commons and common property:**
The case of Switzerland

Swiss Commoners and the SDGs: A Strategic Policy Example

- 30-90% of forests and pastures governed in sustainable way by Swiss Commoners Organisations (see also Ostrom 1990)

- **Today's challenge:** Guaranteed land rights low economic value and top-down state subsidies

- **Swiss Commons lab:** Local balancing strategies using local innovations (internal cross subsidizing)



Commons and Policy Activities in Switzerland and Beyond: Positioning Commons in national implementation



- **Co-organizing book launch** with Commoners representatives in Obwalden with representation of local government, Federal Department of Environment (BAFU), Swiss Society of Commoners' Organisations, SNF, and media addressing SDGs
- **Contact with Swiss Agency** coordinating national implementation of SDGs
- Confirmation of **meetings, presentations and working on the mentioning of the role of the commons and commoners in the implementation of the SDGs** → **sign also for other governments and support for indigenous peoples**
- **Collaboration with Swiss Commoners's Organisations** that SDGs are not implemented without their full participation →

**Major conference activities:
Thematic, regional and biennial conference
The next one in 2023 in Nairobi**



**THE COMMONS
WE WANT**

IASC2023

Nairobi, Kenya, June 19-24

Between Historical Legacies and Future Collective Actions

(Co-organized by University of Nairobi and Bern)

<https://europe.iasc-commons.org>,



NEXT STEPS & A+FS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The presentations from today will be available on the Shareweb at:
<https://www.shareweb.ch/site/Agriculture-and-Food-Security/CUG/Pages/thoughts-for-food.aspx>
- We'll be back with more Thoughts for Food on 1st March
- Share news, topics and ideas with us



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Before you leave...

What do you think about this meeting?

<https://forms.office.com/r/k1UaAgznCb>



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Thank you!

Stay well, stay safe and stay connected!

Don't miss our FSLJ on 12 January