Re-thinking naturebased solutions: seeking transformative change through culture and rights

Helen Tugendhat
Forest Peoples Programme



Urgency

- Climate and biodiversity challenges are significant and increasing and responses to each should consider the other
- The CBD call for 'transformative change' towards just and sustainable societies and economies underscores the scale of the challenge
- Working with, and within, intertwined ecosystems of nature and people and supporting those ecosystems to increase climate resilience and sustain life is clearly a positive step

Concerns about ...

- The lessons from REDD+
- Concerns about offsetting

"The Carney task force has emphasised that offsets should only be used to compensate for the residual emissions that organisations cannot eliminate, and not replace decarbonisation efforts. Yet, how to police this is unclear"

- Slippage through 'solutions' that don't hold up
- What solutions are being prioritised
- Driving human rights violations

Key messages

- People's rights can enable transformative change and indigenous peoples' tenure rights, in particular, must be recognised as part of the solutions we seek
- Nature-based solutions situated on or impacting on indigenous peoples' lands and territories must not proceed without full recognition of their rights and with their free, prior and informed consent
- Culture and nature are intimately connected and solutions to our climate and biodiversity crises must harness both

Key messages

- Nature-based solutions must not allow big polluters to simply offset continuing emissions but rather drive financial and technical support to positive solutions
- Financing for systemic change to tackle biodiversity loss and climate change must also address unsustainable consumption and production
- Any target for expanding protected and conserved areas should have legally binding safeguards and mechanisms for oversight and accountability