



Institution: HUNAN UNIVERSITY | [Log in](#) | [My account](#) | [Contact Us](#)

Become a member [Renew my subscription](#) | [Sign up for newsletters](#)



LETTERS

Conservation accord: Let countries govern

Ming Chen^{1,2}, Yingzhu Sun^{1,2}, Chunping Yang^{1,2}, Guangming Zeng^{1,2,*}, Zhongwu Li^{1,2}, Yi Zhu³, Ji...

[+ See all authors and affiliations](#)

Science 15 Jun 2018:
Vol. 360, Issue 6394, pp. 1195
DOI: 10.1126/science.aat7724

Article

Info & Metrics

eLetters

PDF

In their Perspective “How to pay for saving biodiversity” (4 May, p. **486**), E. B. Barbier *et al.* propose a global agreement for biodiversity conservation in which both countries and corporations would participate. We argue that corporate involvement is unrealistic. Only countries should serve as formal parties to the conservation agreement.

Each country joining the proposed conservation agreement would use national conservation data to create targets, policies, and regulations that rigorously standardize the activities of corporations as well as the government (**1–4**). This way, corporations would take part in the biodiversity conservation, regardless of whether they sign the agreement. If corporations independently join the agreement, they could pursue their own targets, policies, and timelines, which may differ from the national standard. Two conflicting standards would confuse the participants, complicate enforcement, and undermine the goal of saving biodiversity.

Corporate involvement may also be unrealistic in terms of logistics. There are vastly more corporations and organizations than there are countries (**5**). The manpower, financial support, and material resources required to add a large number of diverse corporations and organizations to the conservation agreement would not be economical. Therefore, countries should take the lead in governing biodiversity conservation.

<http://www.sciencemag.org/about/science-licenses-journal-article-reuse>

This is an article distributed under the terms of the [Science Journals Default License](#).

References

1. [↩](#) E. D. Minin *et al.*, *Biol. Conserv.* **206**, 56 (2017). [OpenUrl](#)
2. H. M. Pereira *et al.*, *Science* **339**, 277 (2013). [OpenUrl](#) [Abstract/FREE Full Text](#)
3. F. T. Wetzel *et al.*, *Biodiversity* **16**, 137 (2015). [OpenUrl](#)
4. [↩](#) S. H. M. Butchart *et al.*, *Conserv. Lett.* **8**, 329 (2015). [OpenUrl](#)
5. [↩](#) The World Bank, “*Listed domestic companies, total*” (2017); <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/CM.MKT.LDOM.NO>.



Science

Vol 360, Issue 6394
15 June 2018

[Table of Contents](#)
[Print Table of Contents](#)
[Advertising \(PDF\)](#)
[Classified \(PDF\)](#)
[Masthead \(PDF\)](#)

ARTICLE TOOLS

Email

Print

Citation tools

Save to my folders

Share

Alerts

RELATED CONTENT

SIMILAR ARTICLES IN:



CITING ARTICLES IN:

NAVIGATE THIS ARTICLE

- [Article](#)
 - [References](#)
- [Info & Metrics](#)
- [eLetters](#)
- [PDF](#)