

# “Nature-Based Solutions” Greenwash Pollution



## What is Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)?

So-called Nature-Based Solutions (NBS) or natural climate solutions has brought ecosystems-related approaches into a carbon emission market regime pretending to use all of **Nature – Circle of Life – as a sponge for air pollution** instead of cutting greenhouse gas emissions at source. NBS has become a **global carbon offset** scheme to supposedly store (sequester) emissions in forests, soils, grasslands, wetlands, mangroves, deserts, coasts, oceans, and agriculture, such as corn, rice and cover crops, and even urban-city tree pits– **potentially all ecosystems under the sun** NBS is a new name for **REDD+** (see [www.no-redd.com](http://www.no-redd.com)). But regardless of the rebranding, NBS is about **carbon colonialism perpetuating disaster capitalism**. NBS fuels climate chaos and threatens the future of humanity with more ferocious hurricanes, droughts, tornadoes and infernos.

## What does a Polluting Industry, United Nations, World Business Council for Sustainable Development and the World Bank say NBS is?

Shell Oil, one of the biggest polluters in the world says, “Nature-based solutions, or natural climate solutions, are projects which protect, transform or restore land. In this way, nature absorbs more CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the atmosphere. Such activities can lead to the marketing, trading and sale of carbon credits. Each credit represents the avoidance or removal of greenhouse gases equivalent to 1 tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>.” Shell is greenwashing its pollution by investing \$300 million in its version of NBS.

The United Nations says Nature-Based Solutions “can provide over one-third of the cost-effective climate mitigation needed between now and 2030.” The UN says NBS is its main “climate action.” UN says NBS will be key to achieving the Paris Agreement of 2015. However, the **Paris Agreement does not reduce emissions at source** and is nothing but a bundle of false solutions to climate change including NBS by other names such as REDD+. The **Paris Agreement is nothing more than a crime against humanity and Mother Earth**. The World Business Council for Sustainable Development claims that NBS could reduce emissions almost 40%. And the World Bank assures us that NBS is the cheapest fix for global warming.

Big environmental and conservation NGOs such as Environmental Defense Fund and The Nature Conservancy<sup>1</sup> support NBS.

Using NBS for emissions trading and offsets is the biggest **scam** of all time, resulting in human rights violations and **global land grabs**. Polluters want **half the world’s land for NBS**.



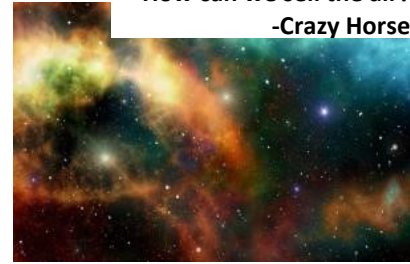
### What's at stake?

- **Half the Worlds Land to be used as a Global Deal**
- **Indigenous Peoples Lands & Territories**
- **Climate**
- **Mother Earth & Father Sky**
- **Your Future**

How can we sell the stars?

How can we sell the air?

-Crazy Horse



### Why is NBS Terrible for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities?

“Indigenous Peoples and local communities - 2.5 billion people - customarily manage over 50% of the global land mass. This is what is at stake: Half the world’s land.

NBS-like projects have already resulted in Indigenous Peoples being violently evicted from their land, human rights abuses and **threats to cultural survival**. Mining monster Rio Tinto funded research to show that the cheapest way to pretend to supposedly reduce pollution is to fund the titling of Indigenous Peoples land on the condition that they use their land for carbon offsets so polluters can pollute more and make billions of dollars privatizing Nature. Now this scheme is being scaled up globally.

In addition, polluters and the UN are stealing Indigenous Peoples’ narratives, saying that NBS will “reconnect people and Nature;” “bring nature back at the center stage of human societies;” and promote “harmony between people and nature, as well as ecological development and represent a holistic, people-centered response to climate change. NBS presents itself as recognizing Indigenous traditional knowledge. NBS steals the environmental justice movement’s call for a just transition.

*“Nature-Based Solutions impose **property rights on all of Life to privatizes and sell Nature**. To treat Nature as a commodity in a market trading system, they have to determine whose property right it is. Selling carbon offsets and carbon credits, is the commodification of the air, biodiversity and all Life. Nature-Based Solutions **Corrupts the Sacred**. NBS is part of the predatory instinct of the **Black Snake** devastating the sacredness of Mother Earth. It wears disguises appearing respectful of **Indigenous Rights** and **Traditional Knowledge**. NBS is capitalism that is systematically institutionalizing globalization and its financialization of Nature and all of the biodiversity of the world. Some additional mechanisms of the Black Snake are REDD+ and Payment for Environmental Services (PES). All these mechanisms must be stopped to protect Mother Earth and Father Sky.” –Tom BK Goldtooth, Executive Director, IEN*

**NBS is BS! Defend your rights! Protect the Sacredness of Mother Earth! Be a Sky Protector! Keep Fossil Fuels in the Ground! End Fossil Fuel Subsidies. Transition away from an Extractive Economy to a Living Economy!**

(References available upon request. Email: skyprotector@ienearth.org)



# INDIGENOUS ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK

---

Sky Protector Briefing No. 13  
[skyprotector.org](http://skyprotector.org)