

# The Global Biodiversity Framework

A GUIDE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES





*An aerial view of the morning landscape in Lobu Nauli, Sipahutar, North Tapanuli, Indonesia. Credit: Khairul Abdi for FPP*

# Table of contents

Introduction.....	4
What is the Global Biodiversity Framework? .....	5
Justice, human rights and Indigenous values in the GBF.....	6
Monitoring the Global Biodiversity Framework.....	7
Box: Traditional Knowledge Indicators .....	8
Glossary .....	9
<b>Target 01:</b> Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss. ....	11
<b>Target 02:</b> Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems .....	13
<b>Target 03:</b> Conserve 30% of Land, Water and Seas.....	14
<b>Target 04:</b> Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts.....	16
<b>Target 05:</b> Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species.....	18
<b>Target 06:</b> Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimise their Impact .....	20
<b>Target 07:</b> Reduce Pollution to Levels that are Not Harmful to Biodiversity .....	21

*Cover photo: Bajo Chiriani, Selva Central, Peru. Credit: Pablo Lasansky / Indigenous Navigator*

<b>Target 08:</b> Minimise the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience .....	23
<b>Target 09:</b> Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People.....	25
<b>Target 10:</b> Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries and Forestry .....	27
<b>Target 11:</b> Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature’s Contributions to People .....	29
<b>Target 12:</b> Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity .....	30
<b>Target 13:</b> Increase the Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge .....	32
<b>Target 14:</b> Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level .....	34
<b>Target 15:</b> Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts .....	36
<b>Target 16:</b> Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption.....	38
<b>Target 17:</b> Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology.....	39
<b>Target 18:</b> Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity .....	41
<b>Target 19:</b> Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance .....	42
<b>Target 20:</b> Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity .....	44
<b>Target 21:</b> Ensure that Knowledge is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action.....	45
<b>Target 22:</b> Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for All .....	47
<b>Target 23:</b> Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action .....	49



*Morning unfolds gently over Lobo Nauli Hamlet, Sipahutar, North Tapanuli and captured from above, where the forest, fields, and homes blend into a serene highland landscape. Credit: Khairul Abdi for FPP*

# Introduction

The world is facing a crisis of nature.

**There are multiple, interconnected drivers of biodiversity loss, such as the expansion of the agricultural frontier, or extractive activities like logging, mining, and infrastructure development. Similarly, the rapid growth of cities and overconsumption increases demand for things found in nature - natural resources – leading to the destruction of habitats and the fragmentation of ecosystems and communities.**

Many Indigenous Peoples have close, reciprocal relationships with nature and steward some of the most biodiverse places on Earth. As a result, Indigenous Peoples are often disproportionately affected by the destruction of nature. At the same time, through living their diverse values, traditional knowledges and practices, Indigenous Peoples also continue to make significant contributions to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and at the global level, biodiversity loss has been slower in Indigenous Peoples' territories than in other areas.

The Global Biodiversity Framework – also sometimes called the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework – was adopted in 2022. It marks a step forward in governments' recognition of the contributions of Indigenous Peoples to biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as of their rights. There are still, however, risks for Indigenous Peoples in how governments and others (such as conservation actors or businesses) may put the framework into practice in the real world.

**This guide seeks to explain the importance of the 23 targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework from the perspectives of Indigenous Peoples. It seeks to set out some potential opportunities and risks of each target, describe some ways in which Indigenous Peoples contribute to its achievement, and consider how to monitor whether states are doing what they have promised. By better understanding the Global Biodiversity Framework, Indigenous Peoples will be better able to take full advantage of its advances and protections, and hold states accountable for their commitments.**



*Térraba, Costa Rica. Credit: Victor Chavarria*

# What is the Global Biodiversity Framework?

In 2022, 196 countries agreed to the Global Biodiversity Framework as the new official plan of the Convention on Biological Diversity. It is intended to guide global efforts to stop and reverse the loss of biodiversity by 2030, with a long-term vision of living in harmony with nature by 2050. The Global Biodiversity Framework contains a higher level of recognition for the rights and the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities than any previous global environmental agreement.

The GBF contains four Goals and 23 Targets. In addition, Section C of its introductory section sets out ‘considerations for the implementation’ of the GBF (overarching conditions that all governments should respect when implementing all the Framework). In each of these parts there is important language specific to the rights of Indigenous Peoples. In this document we focus on explaining each of the 23 targets, and why they are or may be important for Indigenous Peoples.



Kunming-Montreal  
**GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK**



*A benzoin farmer from Sipahutar, North Tapanuli, Indonesia. Credit: Khairul Abdi for FPP*

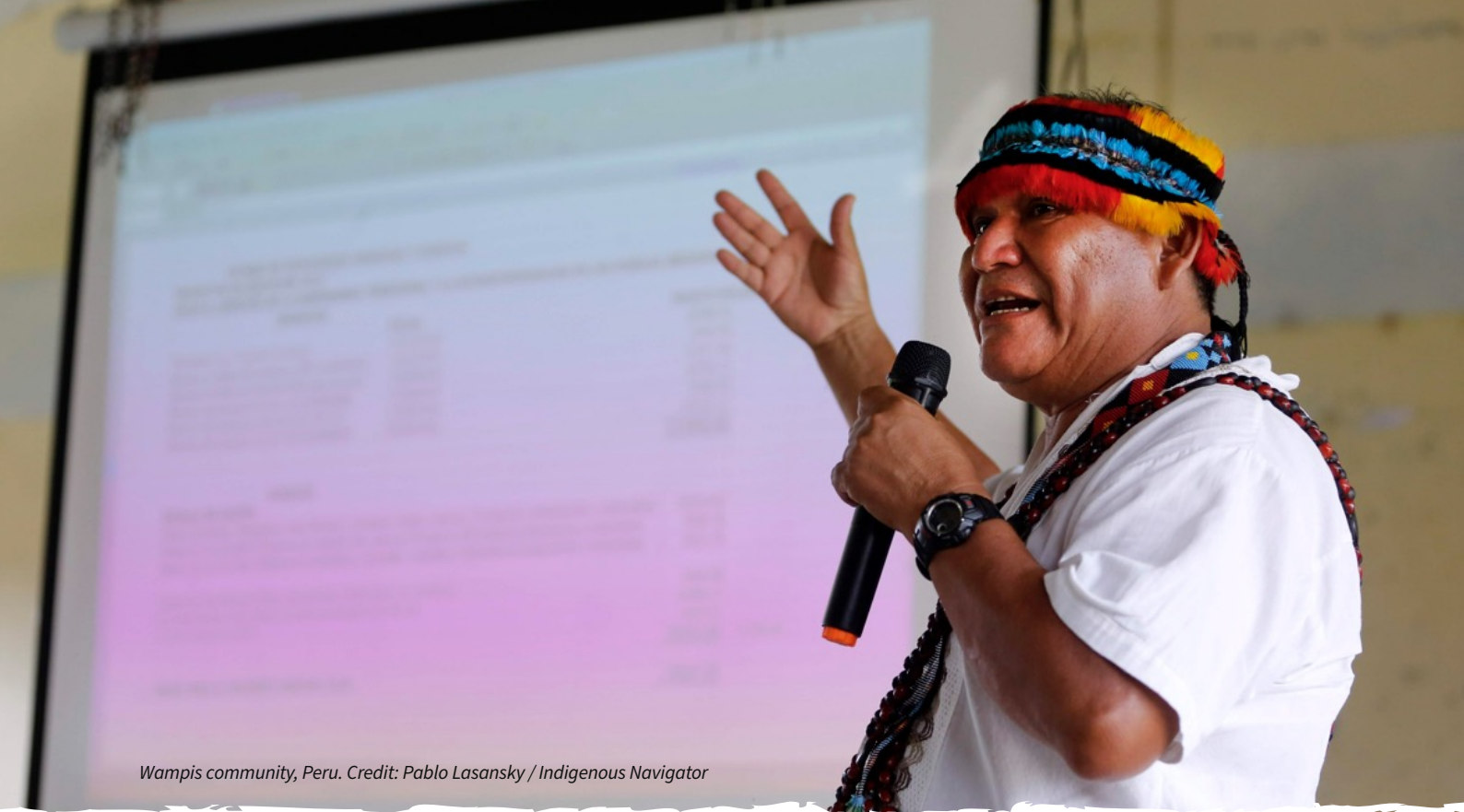
# Justice, human rights and Indigenous values in the GBF

There are many specific references to justice, human rights and Indigenous Peoples' values in the Global Biodiversity Framework. Some particularly important references are contained in Section C of the introduction to the GBF, which sets out considerations for implementing commitments under the framework. This is basically a group of key principles that must guide the actions that states take to put the GBF into practice.

**Many of these principles are important for Indigenous Peoples, including:**

- Ensuring the rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples
- Integrating diverse value systems in biodiversity action
- Using a 'whole of society' approach (that is, ensuring all groups in society are involved)
- Using a human rights-based approach (meaning rights need to be respected, protected, fulfilled and promoted)
- Ensuring intergenerational equity
- Ensuring gender equality

as well as others.



Wampis community, Peru. Credit: Pablo Lasansky / Indigenous Navigator

# Monitoring the Global Biodiversity Framework

**The Global Biodiversity Framework sets out many targets that are important to Indigenous Peoples, offering opportunities as well as creating risks. However, it is not the targets themselves, but whether and how they are implemented that will be most critical to the experiences of Indigenous Peoples in practice.**

Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed a monitoring framework which aims to track states' progress in implementing their commitments. Some parts of this framework are still under discussion or development.

The monitoring framework includes various indicators for each target. Indicators are ways for states to show how much (or how little) progress they have made towards each target – for example, states could track progress on Target 3 (which aims for 30% of lands, waters and seas to be protected or conserved areas by 2030) by measuring the total land and sea area under conservation.

There are different types of indicators: **headline** and **binary indicators** are the minimum high-level indicators for each target which states must report against in their reports to the Secretariat. Each target also has **component indicators** and **complementary indicators**, which provide other information relevant to the target but are not mandatory for states to report on.



## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATORS

The traditional knowledge indicators are a set of four indicators, used to measure progress under the CBD, that are considered particularly relevant to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. They were mainly developed by the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and related provisions (now the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j), where this work continues). The four traditional knowledge indicators are:

- The **land tenure** indicator, which tracks land tenure and land use change in Indigenous Peoples' territories, and is included as a headline indicator for Target 22.
- The **traditional occupations** indicator, which tracks trends in Indigenous Peoples' traditional occupations (and is closely related to customary sustainable use), and is included as a headline indicator for Target 9.
- The **linguistic diversity** indicator, which tracks the number of languages globally (including Indigenous languages) and links closely to biocultural diversity, and is a component indicator for Targets 21 and 22.
- The **participation** indicator – which tracks Indigenous Peoples' participation in biodiversity-related decision-making – and is a binary and component indicator for Target 22.

Despite the inclusion of the traditional knowledge indicators in the monitoring framework, however, many states still do not have systems in place to report well or accurately on matters connected with Indigenous Peoples.

Given this, Indigenous Peoples' own monitoring of implementation of the Global Biodiversity Framework can fill important gaps both in tracking progress and identifying where their rights are not being respected or protected.

The Indigenous Navigator Biodiversity Module is one tool that enables Indigenous Peoples to generate their own data, at community and at national level, about their contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Data generated by communities can support their government's data, reporting and implementation under the Global Biodiversity Framework, and/or may be used as an advocacy tool to point out gaps or violations of rights associated with the implementation framework.

# Glossary

**Critical minerals** is a term that can be used in many different ways to refer to minerals that are considered economically or strategically important. In the context of this guide, it particularly refers to minerals that are necessary to expand “green” energy (e.g. they are used in manufacturing solar panels, wind turbines, batteries for electric cars, etc).

**Customary sustainable use** refers to traditional use by Indigenous Peoples of natural resources (animals, plants, fungi, other living beings, water, other elements of nature) that are governed by customary rules or laws that prevent unsustainable use of natural resources.

**Digital sequence information** refers to the digitised genetic data from living beings in nature. It is technical scientific information that describes, in genetic terms, the components of each living being. It can be used for many purposes, including to support research and development (e.g. the development of new drugs or vaccines), or to track species in their environments.

**Financial instrument** is a contract that creates a non-physical financial product intended to reflect the financial value of a real thing in the world. The product is created to enable the thing to be bought and sold. In the biodiversity context, an example could be a “biodiversity credit”. This creates a product that is intended to reflect the monetary value of the biodiversity of a given place. The instrument can then be traded for money (which could then be used to support protection of that biodiversity, for example). Financial instruments are sometimes enabled by laws, and their trade may also be regulated. For example, a biodiversity credit would likely have limited financial value until governments enact a law that requires companies to buy biodiversity credits to compensate for their damage to nature.

**Genes** are tiny parts of DNA, inherited from parent beings, that act as an instruction manual for how that being will grow and develop. Each different living species has the same core set of genes (which is what makes it part of that species), as well as some genetic variation. So, for example, humans have mostly the same genes but also some genetic variation that creates physical differences between us, for example blue eyes and brown eyes.

**Genetic diversity** means the total variety of genes that exist within a given species. Different genes are what create slight differences between living beings of the same species. Genetic variation explains for example why one wheat plant produces more than the other, or why one particular dog has a white stripe on its back. Having a wide variety of genes within a particular species (the gene pool) is considered valuable, because it means that a species is more resilient and can adapt to circumstances (as different genes help living beings thrive in different circumstances).

**Genetic resources** means genetic material of actual or potential value from plants, animals, fungi, microbes or other living beings. They can provide genes for developing improved crops, new medicines, industrial products, and traits for climate resilience.

**Genetically modified organisms or GMOs** are living beings whose genes have been modified using scientific methods, to achieve outcomes that are considered desirable. Examples include modifying genes of plants used in agriculture so that they produce more, or modifying the genes of fish so that they grow bigger faster.

**Incentives** are laws or policies that encourage businesses to engage in or expand specific types of economic activity. For example, a government may let businesses pay less tax if they invest in a particular sector that the government considers a priority. See also subsidies.

**Indicator** means a measure that is used to assess progress against a target. In this document, indicators refer to the measurement approaches formally adopted to assess progress against the targets adopted in the Global Biodiversity Framework. For example, one indicator for progress against Target 3 (which aims to ensure 30% of land and sea are under conservation protection) includes the number of hectares of land or sea that are within protected areas.

**Industrial monocropping** refers to an agricultural practice of cultivating one crop only on a large-scale, usually by a company or other large agricultural actor. Industrial monocropping generally relies heavily on synthetic inputs (e.g. artificial fertilisers, pesticides etc). Because it is focussed on maximising the growth of only one crop (and removing competition from other plants and animals), it is generally very harmful to biodiversity.

**Nature-based solutions** are deliberate actions taken to slow down climate change which are designed to work through supporting nature, for example through nature protection or restoration.

**Nature's contributions to people** means the different ways that nature provides benefits to and supports the wellbeing of humans. It includes both material benefits such as food and water, non-material benefits such as cultural identity, aesthetic value and pleasure, as well as supporting the systems of life that we rely on (for example, regulation of climate and pollination of plants).

**Precautionary principle** is a principle of international environmental law which says that, if it is possible that an action might harm public health or the environment, even if there is not scientific certainty about whether it will cause harm, the action should not be carried out until and unless more information is available, to avoid irreversible damage to public health or the environment.

**Rightsholders** are any person or group that has their legally protected rights (human rights, land rights, etc) impacted by a project. See stakeholders.

**Spatial planning** – a process of mapping out and deciding on the types of uses that different areas of land and sea may have, balancing between different interests. Spatial planning processes are participatory when they meaningfully include relevant stakeholders and rightsholders in the decision-making process.

**Stakeholders** are any person or group that has an interest in or is impacted by a project. Rightsholders are a type of stakeholder, but they are different because it is their legally protected human rights that are impacted by a project.

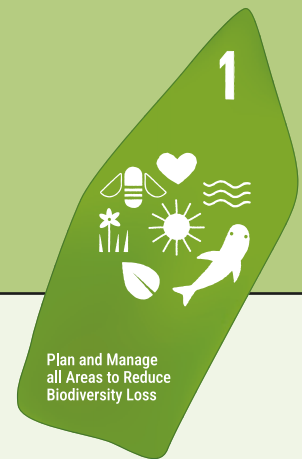
**Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)** – The Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities is a permanent body of the CBD that works particularly on areas of the CBD related to Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It was established in 2024, and replaced the previous “Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention”.

**Subsidies** means money paid by governments to private businesses to encourage their business activities in a particular sector or region. For example, governments can pay money to businesses that set up factories in a particular region that is prioritised for development, or to support the expansion of the types of industries that the government has prioritised. See also incentives.

**Traditional knowledge indicators** – see the section on Monitoring the Global Biodiversity Framework

# Target 01:

## Plan and Manage all Areas to Reduce Biodiversity Loss.



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Participatory spatial mapping under Target 1 can either empower Indigenous Peoples by recognising their rights and priorities, or harm them if imposed without rights-based, meaningful participation.

Land-use and sea-use change - for example cutting down forests for industrial agriculture or extracting oil and gas from the seabed - are major drivers of biodiversity loss. This land-use and sea-use change often has significant negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples, since a large proportion of the world's remaining biodiversity is within Indigenous territories. The desire to have too much of lands, waters, oceans and their resources, and conflict over their use, continue to harm biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples.

To reduce biodiversity loss caused by land- and sea-use change, Target 1 requires all governments to carry out integrated and participatory **spatial planning** (or other effective management processes) for all their lands and sea areas.

Integrated spatial planning means it considers all the different ways the land is (or could be) used. Participatory spatial planning means it is a process which involves bringing **rightsholders** and **stakeholders** together to map out and agree on the use of land for different purposes, balancing between different interests.

Spatial planning processes can help Indigenous Peoples get better recognition of their territories, of how they use them (for example their **customary sustainable use**), and of their priorities for the future. However, these processes can also threaten Indigenous Peoples' rights to their territories and resources. This is likely to be the case if they do not start from a basis of recognition of rights, are too top-down or large-scale, do not enable meaningful participation by Indigenous Peoples or do not recognise Indigenous Peoples as the primary decision-makers for their own territories.



Conservation and mapping, Kenya. Credit: Lewis Davies

Taking part in participatory spatial planning processes that are bottom-up and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights as part of Target 1 offers an important opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to get their lands, knowledges and priorities recognised within local, national, regional and global planning processes.

Many Indigenous Peoples already take part in spatial planning of their territories in ways that respect and support nature and biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples also often bring different values and perspectives to discussions of priorities for spatial planning, for example in relation to balancing economic interests with nature and well-being.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)

## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



How do Indigenous men and women contribute differently to territorial management?

Are both men and women equally able to participate in external spatial planning processes?

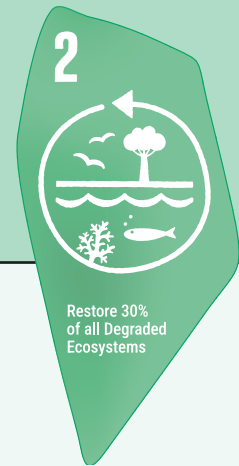


## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that all areas are under participatory, integrated and biodiversity inclusive spatial planning and/or effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change, to bring the loss of areas of high biodiversity importance, including ecosystems of high ecological integrity, close to zero by 2030, while respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

# Target 02:

## Restore 30% of all Degraded Ecosystems



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Target 2 offers Indigenous Peoples an opportunity to lead and contribute to the restoration of degraded ecosystems using their knowledge, but poses risks if restoration is imposed on their lands without free, prior and informed consent or meaningful participation.

Ecosystem degradation is when nature is damaged by human activity. This could be due to pollution, deforestation, change of land use (from forest to farmland, for example), species loss, or other activities. Target 2 aims to have 30% of degraded ecosystems under effective restoration by 2030 on lands, waters, seas and coastlands.

Many Indigenous Peoples have already seen ecosystem degradation in their territories, often as a result of activities that have taken place on their lands or waters without their free, prior and informed consent (such as industrial farming or construction). Degradation can also happen outside an Indigenous territory, but still have impacts on the Indigenous Peoples living there, for example where mining activities pollute rivers running into their territory.

Ecosystem degradation can have strong negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples' lives and livelihoods. It can upset their relationships with territory and their ability to pass down traditional knowledge to younger generations.

Target 2 is an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples who want to help restore nature in (or beyond) their lands and waters. Many Indigenous Peoples will be able to give valuable advice and support towards the restoration of nature, as they have in-depth knowledge about the land and a long-term commitment to care for their territories.

However, some restoration projects may also be undertaken on Indigenous Peoples' lands and waters without their free, prior and informed consent or meaningful participation. To make sure that the Global Biodiversity Framework is carried out with a rights-based approach (that is, respecting human rights), these restoration activities for Target 2 must only take place in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples, making sure they can participate effectively and provide their free, prior and informed consent.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of areas of degraded terrestrial, inland water, and marine and coastal ecosystems are under effective restoration, in order to enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, ecological integrity and connectivity.

# Target 03:

## Conserve 30% of Land, Water and Seas



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Target 3's 30% conservation goal risks repeating past harms to Indigenous Peoples through top-down protected areas, but also offers a major opportunity to recognise and support Indigenous and Traditional Territories and rights-respecting conservation models.

Many Indigenous Peoples protect and sustainably use nature within their territories, whether they describe this as “conservation” or not. However, formal approaches to conservation by governments and international organisations have often not recognised how Indigenous Peoples contribute to the conservation of nature.



*A Dusun youth trying to catch fish using rambat in their territory, Buayan Village, Irene Tani, Malaysia. Credit: PACOS Trust*

In the past, top-down models of conservation have often actively harmed Indigenous Peoples, for example by taking their lands for protected areas, or by restricting their activities in the name of conservation without free, prior and informed consent. Many such protected areas and conservation laws continue to violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Given this history, Target 3, which proposes to expand the coverage of protected or conserved areas to 30% of lands, waters and seas (an increase from a target of 17% in the previous framework) could have potential risks for Indigenous Peoples. If conservation actors rush to create more protected and conserved areas based on previous models, this could increase harms to Indigenous Peoples.



## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 3 integrates some elements of the land tenure indicator in its monitoring. In reporting, countries can disaggregate their reporting on protected areas and OECMs to show the percentage that are Indigenous and Traditional Territories.

On the other hand, Target 3 includes an important new opportunity to advance Indigenous Peoples' own traditional models for conserving nature – Indigenous and Traditional Territories. This new conservation pathway – one of three pathways in the target, alongside protected areas and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (OECMs) - recognises that Indigenous Peoples' territories can contribute to this conservation target *even if their territories are not recognised as a protected area or OECM*.

Guidance on the definition of Indigenous and Traditional Territories is being developed by the **Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j)**. Once a working definition exists, this third pathway will encourage governments to recognise and respect the conservation contributions made by Indigenous territories within their state borders.

There are also increased opportunities for Indigenous Peoples in relation to the other two pathways – protected areas and OECMs. Target 3 explicitly requires that all three pathways must be implemented in ways that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples. This should encourage governments to stop injustices and rights violations in existing protected areas, as well as reform laws and policies for the creation of new protected areas and OECMs. Some countries already have models of protected areas and OECMs that are more respectful of rights. These can provide a model for Indigenous Peoples to show how this target can be reached without violating human rights.

Target 3 explicitly requires that all three pathways must be implemented in ways that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

[GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure and enable that by 2030 at least 30 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and of marine and coastal areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, are effectively conserved and managed through ecologically representative, well-connected and equitably governed systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, recognizing indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, and integrated into wider landscapes, seascapes and the ocean, while ensuring that any sustainable use, where appropriate in such areas, is fully consistent with conservation outcomes, recognizing and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories.

# Target 04:

## Halt Species Extinction, Protect Genetic Diversity, and Manage Human-Wildlife Conflicts



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target offers an opportunity to apply Indigenous Peoples' knowledge to prevent species loss and encourage co-existence between Indigenous Peoples and wild animals, but also could harm Indigenous Peoples if external activities and laws disrupt ecosystems or do not respect customary practices.

This target relates to species extinction, genetic diversity and human-wildlife conflict - all important issues for Indigenous Peoples.



*Ogiek community scout mapper and elephant tracker using Mapeo to collect data on a sacred cave used by elephants, Mount Elgon, Kenya. Credit: Tom Rowley, FPP*

Indigenous Peoples have close, reciprocal relationships with a wide variety of species on their lands and waters. As a result, many species have enormous cultural importance for Indigenous Peoples, including sometimes being considered as kin or relatives. As a result, species loss harms not only biodiversity but also the cultural and spiritual life of Indigenous Peoples.

Precisely because of their close relationships with many species in their territories, Indigenous Peoples also often hold critical knowledge on why and how species are being lost in their territories, and on how best to protect and/or sustainably use these species. This knowledge means Indigenous Peoples can play an important role in stopping species from becoming rare or extinct.

## This knowledge means Indigenous Peoples can play an important role in stopping species from becoming rare or extinct.

Similarly, Indigenous Peoples play a key role in supporting genetic diversity – that is, maintaining a variety of different genes within a particular species. For example, Indigenous food systems often include locally-specific varieties of plants and animals, and a much wider range of foods. This supports much greater biological and genetic diversity than global agro-industrial food systems.

Finally, human-wildlife conflict is also an issue that affects many Indigenous Peoples. Over millennia, many Indigenous Peoples have developed ways of living harmoniously alongside wildlife within their territories, which helps to maintain biodiversity in the area and also reduces their conflict with wild animals. Such approaches are often deeply rooted in their cultures and linked with **customary sustainable use** practices.

However, these traditional approaches can often be upset by changes that come from outsiders. For example, external economic activities that disturb wildlife habitats – often carried out without free, prior and informed consent - can cause wildlife to move closer to Indigenous communities, leading to an increase in incidents of human-wildlife conflict. For example, in a territory where elephants usually keep their distance from Indigenous Peoples’ dwellings, an increase in forestry activities in the deep forest could mean elephants move towards Indigenous communities, damaging homes and crops.

Similarly, external laws and policies can sometimes undermine how Indigenous Peoples traditionally manage conflict with wildlife. For example, a prohibition on hunting that stops customary sustainable hunting by Indigenous Peoples may undermine local approaches to minimising human-wildlife conflict.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure urgent management actions to halt human induced extinction of known threatened species and for the recovery and conservation of species, in particular threatened species, to significantly reduce extinction risk, as well as to maintain and restore the genetic diversity within and between populations of native, wild and domesticated species to maintain their adaptive potential, including through in situ and ex situ conservation and sustainable management practices, and effectively manage human-wildlife interactions to minimize human-wildlife conflict for coexistence.

# Target 05:

## Ensure Sustainable, Safe and Legal Harvesting and Trade of Wild Species



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target seeks to slow down biodiversity loss by creating rules around the harvest and trade of wild species without restricting Indigenous Peoples' customary sustainable use and traditional management practices.

This target aims to put rules in place to make sure that wild species are harvested and traded in a sustainable and safe way – while also respecting and protecting Indigenous Peoples' **customary sustainable use**. The target is closely linked to Target 9, which focusses on managing wild species sustainably to benefit people.



Regulating the harvest and trade of wild species is very important to reversing biodiversity loss. The overuse of wild populations of species is the largest direct driver of biodiversity loss in marine ecosystems (for example, through overfishing), and the second largest in land and freshwater ecosystems. In particular, the overuse of wild species for trade in local, national, regional and global markets is having a serious impact, sometimes leading to species extinction. Overuse can also affect Indigenous Peoples' own customary sustainable use (for example, if it leads to scarcity of wild species within Indigenous territories).



Many Indigenous Peoples already have customary rules for the sustainable use of wild species on their lands, waters and territories to ensure that species are not overused. These rules reflect traditional knowledge and guide practices on their use, exchange and trade, and can contribute significantly to sustainable management and use of wild species in their territories and beyond.

Currently, some states have regulations on the use of wild species that stop Indigenous Peoples from carrying out their traditional practices, such as hunting. Sometimes these rules can mean that Indigenous Peoples are fined or sent to prison if they continue carry out their traditional practices. However, Target 5 makes it clear that Indigenous Peoples’ have the right to continue to engage in their customary sustainable use practices, which often have significant cultural and/or spiritual significance as well as forming a key part of livelihoods.

Correspondingly, states must respect and protect Indigenous Peoples’ customary sustainable use practices when creating rules around the use, harvesting and trade of wild species.

 [GO BACK TO MENU](#)

## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are Indigenous Peoples able to participate effectively in decisions around the regulation of wild species? Are their rights respected in these processes?

Does the regulation of the harvest and trade of wild species affect men and women differently?

However, Target 5 makes it clear that Indigenous Peoples’ have the right to continue to engage in their customary sustainable use practices, which often have significant cultural and/or spiritual significance as well as forming a key part of livelihoods.



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that the use, harvesting and trade of wild species is sustainable, safe and legal, preventing overexploitation, minimizing impacts on non-target species and ecosystems, and reducing the risk of pathogen spillover, applying the ecosystem approach, while respecting and protecting customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.

# Target 06:

## Reduce the Introduction of Invasive Alien Species by 50% and Minimise their Impact



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target seeks to reduce the spread and effects of non-native species in areas where they cause harm. Recognising Indigenous land rights and knowledge can help achieve this.

Invasive alien species are animals, plants, fungi or other living beings that are introduced to an area where they were not originally found, and which have negative impacts on the ecosystem in that area. For example, this could be a plant that grows very quickly and stops other native plants from growing, or an animal that eats large quantities of other native animals or plants and disturbs the natural balance.

Invasive alien species are a direct driver of biodiversity loss. In addition to their biodiversity impacts, however, they can also pose a threat to food security, human health, economic activities and social and cultural values, including for Indigenous Peoples.

Invasive alien species can be introduced to Indigenous territories in many ways, although one way is by external actors carrying out activities on their territories. Protecting Indigenous Peoples' land rights can therefore help stop the spread of invasive alien species.

Because of their close relationships with their territories, Indigenous Peoples are also often very sensitive to the spread and effects of invasive species within their lands and waters. Their knowledge and skills can therefore play an important role in preventing the establishment of invasive species, as well as monitoring and controlling them.

Management of invasive alien species needs to incorporate both modern tools and traditional approaches. Often, Indigenous Peoples are already carrying out community-based monitoring and management of invasive alien species, and this should be included in actions towards Target 6.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)

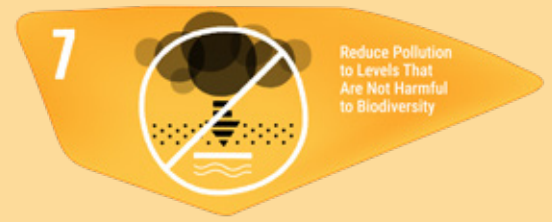


### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 per cent by 2030, and eradicating or controlling invasive alien species, especially in priority sites, such as islands.

# Target 07:

## Reduce Pollution to Levels that are Not Harmful to Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target requires reducing polluting activities, especially pesticides, chemicals and plastics, and offers an opportunity to reduce pollution affecting Indigenous Peoples by protecting their land rights and learning from their sustainable food systems.

Pollution is a strong cause of biodiversity loss. It can take many forms, but globally, pollution from fertilisers, pesticides, hazardous chemicals and plastics are particularly harmful for biodiversity and ecosystems, as well as for people.



*Sugarcane impacts, Rio Pailia, Northern Cauca, Colombia. Credit: Vicki Brown, FPP*

Pollution that occurs in Indigenous Peoples' territories – often in the form of contaminated water sources, air pollution, or plastic pollution – not only affects biodiversity, but also Indigenous Peoples' rights. In addition to impacting Indigenous Peoples' health, pollution can harm their livelihoods and food security, impact their culture as well as endanger many other rights. Some of these impacts are also gendered, that is, they may have different impacts on men and women.

Pollution on Indigenous territories is often linked to the activities of external actors that negatively affect their lands and waters, and have taken place without free, prior and informed consent. Because pollution can spread from its source, sometimes these activities can occur far from Indigenous Peoples' lands. The protection of Indigenous Peoples' territorial rights – including respect for their right to free, prior and informed consent for any activity that may affect them (even if it is not located on their territory) – can therefore help protect both human rights and biodiversity.

Indigenous Peoples can also contribute in other ways to this target. Agriculture (and particularly modern industrial agriculture) is a significant source of global pollution, as it uses synthetic fertilisers and pesticides (often containing hazardous chemicals). However, Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems and agricultural methods rarely cause significant pollution and in fact often have positive impacts on biodiversity by offering improved food quality and a similar or greater yield. There is increasing global interest in returning to more sustainable, traditional methods of agriculture, and Indigenous Peoples have a great deal to teach others in this regard.

**Pollution that occurs in Indigenous Peoples' territories – often in the form of contaminated water sources, air pollution, or plastic pollution – not only affects biodiversity, but also Indigenous Peoples' rights.**

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)

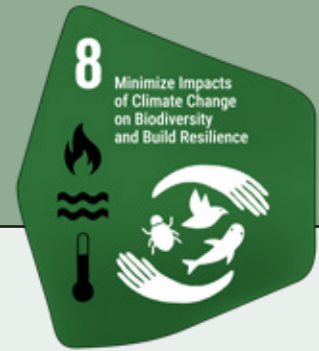


### **OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT**

Reduce pollution risks and the negative impact of pollution from all sources by 2030, to levels that are not harmful to biodiversity and ecosystem functions and services, considering cumulative effects, including: (a) by reducing excess nutrients lost to the environment by at least half, including through more efficient nutrient cycling and use; (b) by reducing the overall risk from pesticides and highly hazardous chemicals by at least half, including through integrated pest management, based on science, taking into account food security and livelihoods; and (c) by preventing, reducing, and working towards eliminating plastic pollution.

# Target 08:

## Minimise the Impacts of Climate Change on Biodiversity and Build Resilience



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Actions taken to slow down and adapt to climate change and biodiversity loss must genuinely protect biodiversity and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights, and there are opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to both participate in and benefit from these actions.

Climate change and biodiversity loss are closely linked. Climate change is one of the causes of biodiversity loss, while at the same time, biodiversity loss through the destruction and degradation of natural ecosystems such as forests, peatlands and marine areas is a significant cause of climate change.

**When climate change negatively affects nature in Indigenous Peoples' territories, it also has direct impacts on Indigenous Peoples themselves.**

When climate change negatively affects nature in Indigenous Peoples' territories, it also has direct impacts on Indigenous Peoples themselves. It can disrupt traditional activities and livelihoods, as well as having health and other consequences. However, Indigenous Peoples' sustainable stewardship of their territories – and the way communities have adapted to climate change - can help to prevent or slow down impacts on nature from climate change.

Governments as well as other actors (such as the private sector and conservation organisations) are currently supporting or taking a wide range of actions to slow down and help people adapt to climate change. Because of the link between climate and biodiversity, some of these actions are designed to work through nature – for example, by protecting or restoring nature to slow down climate change or reduce its impacts. These approaches are called **nature-based solutions** (or sometimes ecosystem-based solutions).

There is significant potential for Indigenous Peoples to lead, participate in or benefit from these initiatives, but there are also risks. Such projects can take place on Indigenous Peoples' lands without their free, prior and informed consent, and without adequate benefit sharing, thereby undermining their rights. For example, a government could earn money from carbon credits on lands that have been protected by Indigenous Peoples without informing, seeking free, prior and informed consent from, or compensating the communities. This can then also lead to restrictions on Indigenous Peoples' activities in those territories.

In addition, not all actions called "nature-based solutions" are genuinely biodiversity friendly. For example, some so-called "nature-based solutions" have involved creating large plantations of a single variety of non-native trees, to enable "carbon capture" - but this actually reduces biodiversity.

Besides nature-based solutions, many other types of actions are also promoted in the name of slowing down and adapting to climate change. This can include, for example, large clean energy projects (installing wind turbines or solar panels), infrastructure such as dams, or even mining for **critical minerals** to support renewable energy development. In addition to impacting biodiversity, these types of projects often require a lot of land – and often take place on Indigenous Peoples' territories without free, prior and informed consent.

Target 8 requires that actions taken to slow and adapt to climate change must minimise impacts on biodiversity. As part of the broader requirements of the Global Biodiversity Framework, they must also respect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Minimize the impact of climate change and ocean acidification on biodiversity and increase its resilience through mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction actions, including through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches, while minimizing negative and fostering positive impacts of climate action on biodiversity.

# Target 09:

## Manage Wild Species Sustainably to Benefit People



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

The responsible use of wild species (animals, plants and organisms) to ensure their long-term survival must also allow people, especially Indigenous Peoples, to benefit from them for food, culture, and wellbeing.

Like Target 5, Target 9 also relates to the management of wild species – but while Target 5 focusses on ensuring there are adequate rules about the use, harvesting and trade of wild species, Target 9 seeks to ensure that the sustainable management of wild species *benefits people*. This includes through protecting and encouraging **customary sustainable use** by Indigenous Peoples.



*In the Baka community of Cameroon. Credit: Adrienne Surprenant for FPP*

Managing wild species sustainably is an important part of biodiversity conservation. At the same time, wild species are also very important for people, providing social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits.

Indigenous Peoples often have important relationships with wild species: they may be a source of food and medicine, form the basis of traditional livelihoods, or have cultural or spiritual importance. The use of wild species is also often closely linked to traditional knowledge practices and social organisation.

Indigenous Peoples have a right to access, use and interact with wild species in their territories, as part of their rights to territories and resources, to food, to self-determination, to culture, and many other rights.

## Indigenous Peoples have a right to access, use and interact with wild species in their territories

Recognising this, Target 9 expressly protects (and encourages) Indigenous Peoples' customary sustainable use of wild species. Customary sustainable use underpins many Indigenous food systems and traditional occupations, such as rotational farming, foraging, hunting and fishing, harvesting of wood and diverse non-timber forest products including traditional medicines. It provides materials for clothing, weaving, home-building, crafts and musical instruments. The continuation of these traditional occupations is a way of promoting customary sustainable use.

Progress on this target will be monitored through two main indicators: the benefits of wild species to people, as well as the percentage of the population in traditional occupations. Maintaining, strengthening or revitalising Indigenous Peoples' traditional occupations is therefore an important contributor to this Target.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that the management and use of wild species are sustainable, thereby providing social, economic and environmental benefits for people, especially those in vulnerable situations and those most dependent on biodiversity, including through sustainable biodiversity-based activities, products and services that enhance biodiversity, and protecting and encouraging customary sustainable use by Indigenous Peoples and local communities.



### TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 9 will be monitored in part through measuring trends in the practice of traditional occupations – one of the four traditional knowledge indicators.



### SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are trends in men's and women's traditional occupations the same or different?

Do benefits of wild species go equally to Indigenous men and women?

How effectively are Indigenous men and women able to participate in decision-making related to wild species?

# Target 10:

## Enhance Biodiversity and Sustainability in Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries and Forestry



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to set up more biodiversity friendly and sustainable ways of farming, fishing and forestry without endangering food security, including by supporting Indigenous Peoples' traditional sustainable practices.

Agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries, and forestry are critical for food security and human well-being. However, many modern practices in these sectors, such as industrial monocropping, overfishing, forest clearing for livestock grazing and the use of synthetic fertilisers and insecticides, have been major drivers of biodiversity loss. These practices have also had significant negative impacts on the rights of Indigenous Peoples – causing dispossession, destruction or pollution of their lands, waters, territories and resources, and related impacts on health, livelihoods, culture, spirituality and self-determination.



*Communal cornfield managed by the Natumingka Indigenous community, North Sumatra, Indonesia. Credit: Khairul Abdi for FPP*

These modern approaches contrast with traditional practices of Indigenous Peoples, who have long engaged in customary sustainable use of resources in these sectors. They use methods and apply rules that prevent overuse of resources and support biodiversity. This means Indigenous Peoples are already contributing to this target. However, their systems are often undervalued, restricted or threatened.



**This means Indigenous Peoples are already contributing to this target. However, their systems are often undervalued, restricted or threatened.**

This target seeks to reduce negative practices in these sectors, to strengthen biodiversity and sustainability and ensure enough food is produced to feed everyone.

To meet this target, governments may put into place programmes and policies to support “biodiversity-friendly” approaches in these sectors. Indigenous Peoples’ approaches are often biodiversity friendly, so this is an opportunity to gain more recognition and support of Indigenous Peoples’ sustainable management approaches. It can also highlight the ways in which Indigenous Peoples’ customary sustainable use is currently discouraged or prevented.

### **SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER**

Are Indigenous Peoples able to participate effectively in decision-making processes related to agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry? Is their traditional knowledge recognised and valued in these processes?

What is the role and relationship of Indigenous men and Indigenous women with these sectors? Are they impacted differently? Do they make different contributions? Do they hold different traditional knowledge?

At the same time, it will be important to monitor how new approaches have an impact on Indigenous Peoples’ rights, to ensure that new policies and approaches respect and protect these rights and that free, prior and informed consent is obtained for any approach that may affect Indigenous Peoples.

 **GO BACK TO MENU**



### **OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT**

Ensure that areas under agriculture, aquaculture, fisheries and forestry are managed sustainably, in particular through the sustainable use of biodiversity, including through a substantial increase of the application of biodiversity friendly practices, such as sustainable intensification, agroecological and other innovative approaches, contributing to the resilience and long-term efficiency and productivity of these production systems, and to food security, conserving and restoring biodiversity and maintaining nature’s contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services.

# Target 11:

## Restore, Maintain and Enhance Nature's Contributions to People



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Nature contributes to the wellbeing of all people. States can help protect this by collaborating with Indigenous Peoples and respecting their rights and traditional knowledge, to support a balanced relationship with nature.

Nature is at the centre of the web of human and more-than-human life. It is fundamental to our wellbeing as humans, making our cultures and societies possible, regulating water, air and soil cycles, providing inspiration and supporting identities.

**Nature's contributions to people** is a term used to refer to the ways that nature makes human wellbeing possible – although for Indigenous Peoples (as well as for many other people), nature's value lies not only in its contribution to people, but also to its contribution to and relationship with the more-than-human realm.

The global crisis of declining biodiversity is reducing nature's contributions to people. For example, exhausted soil (with low soil biodiversity) reduces the yield and quality of crops; or cutting down coastal mangroves means they no longer clean our water. Under Target 11, states are committed to taking actions that restore, maintain and enhance nature and natural systems in ways that allow nature to continue sustaining life.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge systems recognise how people and nature rely on each other, and Indigenous ways of life often sustain and protect nature. This means Indigenous Peoples' wisdom, traditional knowledge and value systems can offer important contributions to wider efforts to restore nature and natural cycles, and to return balance to our relationship with nature.

There are opportunities for both states and Indigenous Peoples to collaborate in achieving this target, by enhancing and amplifying the contributions that Indigenous Peoples are already making. To maximise these opportunities, it is important for states to recognise, respect and make visible the diverse knowledge and values of Indigenous Peoples, as well as to respect and protect their human rights. This will safeguard and protect their existing contributions and provide space for these contributions to grow.



### SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Is the traditional knowledge of both Indigenous men and Indigenous women being considered?

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Restore, maintain and enhance nature's contributions to people, including ecosystem functions and services, such as regulation of air, water, and climate, soil health, pollination and reduction of disease risk, as well as protection from natural hazards and disasters, through nature-based solutions and/or ecosystem-based approaches for the benefit of all people and nature.

# Target 12:

## Enhance Green Spaces and Urban Planning for Human Well-Being and Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to improve biodiversity and human wellbeing in urban areas while encouraging collaboration with Indigenous Peoples - especially those living in cities - to restore nature, as well as to recognise and address past harms where urban land is in Indigenous territories.

This target focuses on improving biodiversity in urban areas, through the increase in green spaces (like parks) and blue spaces (water environments), and better urban planning. As urban areas become ever more significant, this is both for maintaining and restoring the health of nature in urban areas, as well as for supporting the health and wellbeing of people living in urban areas.



*The Ibaloy Heritage Garden - A lifeline for Indigenous Culture and Values in Baguio City, Philippines. Credit: PIKP*

While many Indigenous Peoples live in rural areas, there are also a significant number of Indigenous Peoples living in urban areas. There are multiple reasons for this – in some cases, Indigenous Peoples have been forced into urban areas through dispossession or other forms of displacement; in some cases, urban areas have spread into or even completely absorbed traditional territories; and of course, Indigenous Peoples have also in other cases voluntarily relocated to urban areas.

Yet even when they live in urban areas, many Indigenous Peoples retain their cultural values as well as links with nature and with their territories. There are many examples of Indigenous Peoples leading initiatives to enhance nature and culture in urban areas. Some examples are through creating sustainable urban food systems, preserving or restoring areas of natural and cultural importance within urban zones, and using ecological knowledge to support or restore native biodiversity in cities.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledges, cultures and values therefore have much to contribute to maintaining and restoring biodiversity within urban zones, including through enhancing connections between urban dwellers and nature and creating models for more sustainable patterns for living in urban areas.

Where Indigenous Peoples continue to have ties to ancestral territories where urban areas are now located, states also have an obligation to recognise their territories, and to facilitate restitution and continued access to culturally important areas, and/or provide compensation. There may be opportunities for states to collaborate with affected Indigenous Peoples in the implementation of this target to support redress of past harms while also advancing the aims of the target.

 [GO BACK TO MENU](#)



## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

To what extent are Indigenous Peoples able to participate fully and effectively in urban planning initiatives?

Are the needs of Indigenous men and women different in urban spaces? How?

Yet even when they live in urban areas, many Indigenous Peoples retain their cultural values as well as links with nature and with their territories.



## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Significantly increase the area and quality, and connectivity of, access to, and benefits from green and blue spaces in urban and densely populated areas sustainably, by mainstreaming the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and ensure biodiversity-inclusive urban planning, enhancing native biodiversity, ecological connectivity and integrity, and improving human health and well-being and connection to nature, and contributing to inclusive and sustainable urbanization and to the provision of ecosystem functions and services.

# Target 13:

## Increase the Sharing of Benefits from Genetic Resources, Digital Sequence Information and Traditional Knowledge



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to ensure Indigenous Peoples and biodiversity-rich countries receive fair benefits when their genetic resources and traditional knowledge are used.

The sharing of benefits from the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge is one of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity. **Genetic resources, Digital Sequence Information (DSI)** and traditional knowledge can often generate large amounts of money and other benefits.

**For example, pharmaceutical companies often develop drugs based on traditional medicines which they then sell, often for large profits.**

For example, pharmaceutical companies often develop drugs based on traditional medicines which they then sell, often for large profits. Many other types of products, such as natural pesticides, foods or new varieties of agricultural crops, have also been developed from the genetic resources and traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples.

The aim of this target is to improve the sharing of benefits from situations like the examples given above. In this way, countries providing biodiversity (frequently global majority countries) also receive fair benefits from the resources, information and traditional knowledge that are used and exploited (frequently by countries from the global north). Not only is this fairer, this benefit-sharing can also attract funding for conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Several international instruments, including the Nagoya Protocol to the CBD, the International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and others, establish rules that require benefit sharing with Indigenous Peoples in return for the use of their genetic resources, traditional knowledge and other know-how and practices. At COP 15, Parties also agreed to develop ways to improve the sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information (that is, mapping the exact genetic components) of genetic resources. Despite these developments, increased benefits to Indigenous Peoples have not always materialised in practice.

This target seeks to address the continued gaps in benefit sharing in relation to biodiversity and biodiversity-related traditional knowledge. It has two main components.

- The first involves putting in place **legal, policy and administrative measures to ensure equitable access and benefit sharing**. This requires ensuring Indigenous Peoples' authorities and relevant governments agree on terms and give prior informed consent for the use of genetic resources, digital sequence information and associated traditional knowledge.
- The second component requires **building skills and understanding that will support increased (fair and equitable) access and benefit sharing**. Appropriate and targeted capacity building measures can support Indigenous Peoples to increase the share of benefits they receive through these mechanisms. For example, support could be provided for:
  - developing of community protocols,
  - establishing mechanisms for fair and equitable sharing,
  - monitoring of monetary and non-monetary benefits which can support Indigenous Peoples to increase the share of benefits they receive through these mechanisms.

 [GO BACK TO MENU](#)



## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Is there an increase in benefits from genetic resources and traditional knowledge reaching Indigenous Peoples?

Are any benefits shared equitably between Indigenous men and Indigenous women?

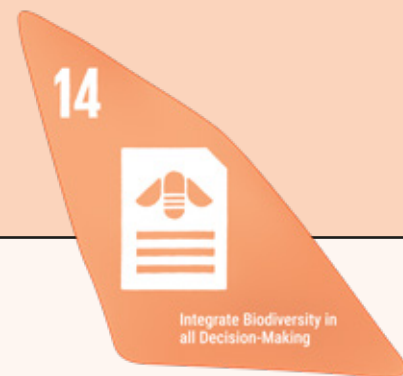


## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Take effective legal, policy, administrative and capacity-building measures at all levels, as appropriate, to ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from the utilization of genetic resources and from digital sequence information on genetic resources, as well as traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and facilitating appropriate access to genetic resources, and by 2030 facilitating a significant increase of the benefits shared, in accordance with applicable international access and benefit-sharing instruments.

# Target 14:

## Integrate Biodiversity in Decision-Making at Every Level



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to ensure that decision-making about biodiversity includes Indigenous Peoples' knowledge and is integrated across all sectors in governments, so that laws, policies and investments better protect nature.

Many countries have laws and policies that seek to protect biodiversity. Yet these laws and policies do not always protect nature in the way intended. This could be for example because processes that support protection of biodiversity may be siloed (for example only in one government ministry), so that biodiversity is not considered in all relevant decisions. In some cases, biodiversity laws and policies may not be implemented in practice, may be too weak, or may be contradicted by other laws and policies. Protection of biodiversity may also be overridden in decision-making processes, for example, where a national decision overrides local decision-making, or because business priorities systematically take precedence over biodiversity protection in decision-making.



*Indigenous panel at COP-16, Cali, Colombia, 2024. Credit: Frances Jenner, FPP*

Even where biodiversity is included in decision-making, often only a very narrow, scientific understanding of biodiversity is considered. For Indigenous Peoples, however, biodiversity has many values that can be seen in knowledge systems and sustainable use practices that have been developed over generations. These diverse values have been recognised by Indigenous Peoples for millennia, and these must be more widely recognised and adopted to better balance human relationships with nature.

## The perspectives, values and world views of Indigenous Peoples can positively influence biodiversity-related decision-making at all levels.

The perspectives, values and world views of Indigenous Peoples can positively influence biodiversity-related decision-making at all levels.

This target seeks to ensure that the multiple values of biodiversity appropriately and adequately inform decisions and policies across government, economic sectors, and society more broadly. This means more than simply considering or listening to Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on the different values of nature - these values must be genuinely integrated in final decisions. If this happens, over time, public and private activities and financial flows will increasingly align with the Global Biodiversity Framework.

This target therefore provides an opportunity to better integrate nature, including the knowledges, values and worldviews of Indigenous Peoples related to nature, in decision-making, in order to improve decision-making at all levels.

 [GO BACK TO MENU](#)

### SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



To what extent are Indigenous Peoples participating in and genuinely able to influence decision-making related to biodiversity?

Are both Indigenous men and Indigenous women participating in this decision-making?



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure the full integration of biodiversity and its multiple values into policies, regulations, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies, strategic environmental assessments, environmental impact assessments and, as appropriate, national accounting, within and across all levels of government and across all sectors, in particular those with significant impacts on biodiversity, progressively aligning all relevant public and private activities, and fiscal and financial flows with the goals and targets of this framework.

# Target 15:

## Businesses Assess, Disclose and Reduce Biodiversity-Related Risks and Negative Impacts



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to ensure that businesses and financial institutions are open about their impacts on nature, reduce the harm they are causing, and respect Indigenous Peoples' rights by involving them in decisions and accountability processes.

Businesses and financial institutions strongly influence economies and society, and their activities can have positive or negative impacts on both nature and on Indigenous Peoples. Because many Indigenous Peoples live in biodiverse areas and depend on nature for their livelihoods, culture and wellbeing, business impacts on nature often also directly affect Indigenous Peoples' rights.

**Indigenous Peoples already play an important role by monitoring and documenting harmful business activities.**

This target requires states to take measures to encourage and enable businesses and financial institutions to measure, disclose and reduce their impacts on nature. Where businesses are transparent about these impacts, it can also reveal how their activities affect Indigenous Peoples, creating opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to seek accountability, dialogue and redress. Transparency around benefit-sharing can also improve accountability related to the access and use of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge related to biodiversity. However, the amount of information that businesses measure and publish about their impact on nature will depend on the policies of each state.

Indigenous Peoples already play an important role by monitoring and documenting harmful business activities. Their efforts contribute to this target, as they help verify business reports and fill gaps where companies and governments fail to act.

The meaningful participation of Indigenous Peoples in business, environmental and social assessments can further strengthen these processes and ensure that Indigenous rights, knowledge and perspectives are properly respected.



### SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Are Indigenous Peoples able to access information about business impacts? How effective are laws and policies?

Are businesses integrating consideration of impacts on Indigenous Peoples into their reporting?

Are businesses considering impacts on both men and women?

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



Sluicer pumping untreated water into an abandoned mine pit. Marudi Mine, South Rupununi, Guyana. Credit: Vicki Brown, FPP



## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Take legal, administrative or policy measures to encourage and enable business, and in particular to ensure that large and transnational companies and financial institutions:

- (a) Regularly monitor, assess, and transparently disclose their risks, dependencies and impacts on biodiversity, including with requirements for all large as well as transnational companies and financial institutions along their operations, supply and value chains and portfolios;
- (b) Provide information needed to consumers to promote sustainable consumption patterns;
- (c) Report on compliance with access and benefit-sharing regulations and measures, as applicable; in order to progressively reduce negative impacts on biodiversity, increase positive impacts, reduce biodiversity-related risks to business and financial institutions, and promote actions to ensure sustainable patterns of production.

# Target 16:

## Enable Sustainable Consumption Choices to Reduce Waste and Overconsumption



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Stopping biodiversity loss requires a global shift to more sustainable consumption. Some ways this can be done are by supporting and sharing Indigenous Peoples' sustainable food practices, as well as governments helping consumers to make more sustainable choices.

Globally, unsustainable consumption is a major cause of biodiversity loss. Stopping and reversing biodiversity loss will require a global shift towards more sustainable ways of consuming.

However, different countries have different levels of consumption and waste production. Citizens in poorer countries generally consume less and more sustainably than those in richer countries. Indigenous Peoples in any country often consume a lot less, and more sustainably, than others.

Culturally, many Indigenous Peoples do not prioritise consumerism or wealth. Instead they focus on living well through values like community and living in harmony with Mother Earth. These ideas are gaining wider support globally, which means Indigenous Peoples can help drive global change by sharing their diverse knowledges and values (such as sustainable use) with other groups and movements. This supports the wider global mindset shift needed to achieve this target.

Indigenous Peoples' traditional food systems also have a significant contribution to make in reducing food waste. Indigenous Peoples' food systems are often focussed on organic and regenerative principles, making use of by-products and sourcing their food locally. Increased support for and protection of Indigenous Peoples' food systems, as well as sharing of their practices, can help reduce global food waste.

Indigenous Peoples can of course also participate in unsustainable consumption and waste production, in the same way as everyone else. Governments can help everyone by discouraging unsustainable products and packaging, and by making it easier for people to understand how sustainable the products they buy are. Supporting Indigenous cultures and passing traditional knowledge from one generation to the next can also strengthen the positive contributions Indigenous Peoples already make.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)

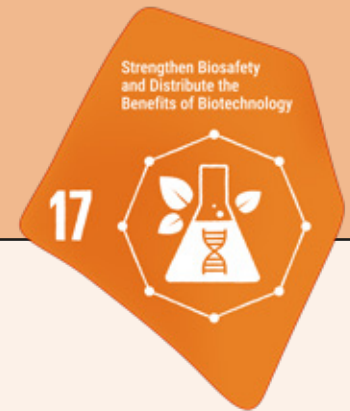


### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that people are encouraged and enabled to make sustainable consumption choices including by establishing supportive policy, legislative or regulatory frameworks, improving education and access to relevant and accurate information and alternatives, and by 2030, reduce the global footprint of consumption in an equitable manner, including through halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption and substantially reducing waste generation, in order for all people to live well in harmony with Mother Earth.

# Target 17:

## Strengthen Biosafety and Distribute the Benefits of Biotechnology



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Genetically Modified Organisms can be harmful to Indigenous livelihoods. This target aims to avoid potential harms from GMOs by carefully testing and regulating them. It also seeks to make sure that results and benefits from GMOs are shared fairly and equitably.

Biosafety measures are rules and actions used to manage the risks of releasing genetically modified organisms (GMOs), plants or animals into nature. Genetic modification – also referred to as “biotechnology” – involves changing existing species to achieve desirable outcomes. For example, this might include changing a rice plant to make it better able to survive drought (potentially making it more resistant to climate change), or to make each plant produce more grains.

**When GMOs are released on or near Indigenous Peoples’ territories without adequate testing or protection, this can negatively affect traditional food systems.**

Releasing GMOs can have serious environmental, social and economic impacts, particularly when they are introduced without careful testing or proper use of the **precautionary principle**. Or, GMO seeds can spread beyond their original area of planting, thereby cross-pollinating or crowding out existing varieties of the same crop in the area. This can reduce genetic diversity of the species in the local area, as well as disrupting practices of other farmers and creating risks in the food system by encouraging reliance on a single variety. In addition, some GMOs require specific (usually synthetic) inputs such as fertilisers (some require a specific fertiliser from a specific company), which can also increase pollution impacts.

Indigenous Peoples’ food systems often involve collecting and growing many different seed varieties, which supports food resilience and strengthens biodiversity. When GMOs are released on or near Indigenous Peoples’ territories without adequate testing or protection, this can negatively affect traditional food systems. For example, cross-pollination from GMO seeds can affect traditional crops, causing reduced genetic diversity and the loss of specifically adapted local varieties. In turn this can lead to inadequate food, health impacts, impacts on traditional occupations, and a reduction in biological and genetic diversity within Indigenous territories.

By strengthening regulation and implementation of biosafety measures, this target can help safeguard Indigenous Peoples from negative impacts caused by biotechnology. Safeguards could include incorporating their full and effective participation in decision-making, ensuring the respect of free, prior and informed consent to the release of biotechnologies that may affect them, as well as by creating avenues for accountability where biotechnologies have caused or do cause harm.

This target also seeks to make sure that results of and benefits from biotechnology are fairly and equitably shared. For Indigenous Peoples, this could include for example helping them to access new varieties of crops that may be more resistant to climate change. Biotechnology may also sometimes be developed using Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge (such as knowledge of the characteristics of different local varieties) - in which case mechanisms to ensure access and benefit sharing should be in place.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



*Produce of Comunidad Campesina de Cayara, Ayacucho, Peru. Credit: Matias Perez Ojeda del Arco, FPP*



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Establish, strengthen capacity for, and implement in all countries biosafety measures as set out in Article 8(g) of the Convention on Biological Diversity and measures for the handling of biotechnology and distribution of its benefits as set out in Article 19 of the Convention.

# Target 18:

## Reduce Harmful Incentives by at Least \$500 Billion per Year, and Scale Up Positive Incentives for Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Government payments and tax breaks can encourage activities that harm nature and Indigenous Peoples' rights. This target aims to reduce these harmful payments and increase positive ones that encourage biodiversity protection.

Some government payments (**subsidies**) or other **incentives** (such as tax breaks) encourage activities that damage nature. Without these incentives and subsidies, companies might not do these harmful activities, especially if they do not make financial sense.

For example, a government may give money or tax cuts to oil companies to help extract oil that is hard and expensive to reach, to support local development. Without this support, the company might have decided not to extract this oil at all because it would be too expensive. These kinds of payments can make harmful activities more attractive (and more profitable) than nature-friendly alternatives. For example, if there are incentives for oil production, oil extraction may earn more money than other ways of using the same land, such as sustainable farming or ecotourism, which might have been the best economic option if these incentives were not in place.

Many activities that damage biodiversity can also cause harm to Indigenous Peoples. As a result, subsidies and incentives that damage biodiversity can also lead to human rights violations. For example, subsidies that promote the growth of industrial agriculture can lead to land grabbing of Indigenous Peoples' lands. Reducing these harmful incentives and subsidies could be a positive development both for biodiversity and for Indigenous Peoples' rights. It may be helpful for Indigenous Peoples to work with governments on this issue, to ensure that the government focuses on reducing subsidies and incentives that harm both biodiversity and Indigenous Peoples' rights.

The second part of this target involves increasing positive incentives, which encourage activities that protect biodiversity. These could also offer opportunities for Indigenous Peoples. For example, governments could set up programmes that pay Indigenous Peoples for caring for and protecting nature within their territories. There may also be opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to ally with broader movements that are pushing to transform our economic systems and create rights-based, sustainable and/or wellbeing focussed economies. By working together, they can help shape new ideas and support positive changes in government policies and programmes.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Identify by 2025, and eliminate, phase out or reform incentives, including subsidies, harmful for biodiversity, in a proportionate, just, fair, effective and equitable way, while substantially and progressively reducing them by at least \$500 billion per year by 2030, starting with the most harmful incentives, and scale up positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

# Target 19:

## Mobilise \$200 Billion per Year for Biodiversity From all Sources, Including \$30 Billion Through International Finance



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target calls for more funding – especially from richer countries – to support biodiversity, through a range of tools. This is an opportunity for obtaining more funding for Indigenous Peoples’ actions, but this finance may also carry risks if Indigenous Peoples’ rights are not respected.

Putting the Global Biodiversity Framework into action will require more funding for nature. This target requires governments, businesses, financial institutions and others to give more support for biodiversity action, including support for Indigenous Peoples’ collective actions. This target is an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to gain better access to funding and other resources to support their traditional sustainable practices, conservation work, and their other self-determined priorities.

**While funding may come from both governments and the private sector, public funding is especially important for Indigenous Peoples.**

All countries have a responsibility to provide funding, but richer countries have a greater responsibility to contribute. This is both because they have more resources and because their consumption and production patterns, both now and in the past, have caused more harm to biodiversity than those of other countries.

This target may have links with Target 18, because cutting public funding for harmful activities and behaviours could free up money to support nature instead. While funding may come from both governments and the private sector, public funding is especially important for Indigenous Peoples. While private funding can help, it often focuses on activities that make a profit, which may not align with Indigenous Peoples’ priorities and leave some of their proposed activities unfunded.

This target also envisages creating new **financial instruments** to support biodiversity action, which could bring both opportunities and risks for Indigenous Peoples. In this context, financial instruments are agreements that place a monetary value on biodiversity. For example, a protected area with a high biodiversity value may generate a “biodiversity credit”, which represents the monetary value of the biodiversity it contains. This credit could then be sold or exchanged on the market, and the money would go to those who are recognised as “owning” the biodiversity in question (or the land or sea where it is located). A carbon credit is a similar example related to climate change.

As experiences with carbon markets have shown, creating biodiversity credits on Indigenous Peoples' territories could encourage land grabbing from Indigenous Peoples. Equally, credits could be created in ways that do not respect Indigenous Peoples' rights or fairly share benefits when they are sold. On the other hand, if their rights are respected, there may also be opportunities for Indigenous Peoples to choose to work with the private sector and to benefit from these tools. However, past experience with carbon markets have shown that positive experiences with carbon markets have up to now been rare in practice

 **GO BACK TO MENU**

## SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER



Are resources genuinely reaching Indigenous Peoples? Are resources being provided in an appropriate and adapted way, that support Indigenous Peoples' own priorities?

Are Indigenous Peoples participating fully and effectively in discussions around financing and different financing mechanisms?

Are their rights being respected and protected?



## OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Substantially and progressively increase the level of financial resources from all sources, in an effective, timely and easily accessible manner, including domestic, international, public and private resources, in accordance with Article 20 of the Convention, to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, by 2030 mobilizing at least 200 billion United States dollars per year, including by:

- (a) Increasing total biodiversity related international financial resources from developed countries, including official development assistance, and from countries that voluntarily assume obligations of developed country Parties, to developing countries, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing states, as well as countries with economies in transition, to at least US\$ 20 billion per year by 2025, and to at least US\$ 30 billion per year by 2030;
- (b) Significantly increasing domestic resource mobilization, facilitated by the preparation and implementation of national biodiversity finance plans or similar instruments according to national needs, priorities and circumstances;
- (c) Leveraging private finance, promoting blended finance, implementing strategies for raising new and additional resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in biodiversity, including through impact funds and other instruments;
- (d) Stimulating innovative schemes such as payment for ecosystem services, green bonds, biodiversity offsets and credits, benefit-sharing mechanisms, with environmental and social safeguards;
- (e) Optimizing co-benefits and synergies of finance targeting the biodiversity and climate crises;
- (f) Enhancing the role of collective actions, including by indigenous peoples and local communities, Mother Earth centric actions<sup>[1]</sup> and non-market-based approaches including community based natural resource management and civil society cooperation and solidarity aimed at the conservation of biodiversity;
- (g) Enhancing the effectiveness, efficiency and transparency of resource provision and use.

[1] *Mother Earth-centric actions: Ecocentric and rights-based approach enabling the implementation of actions towards harmonic and complementary relationships between peoples and nature, promoting the continuity of all living beings and their communities and ensuring the non-commodification of environmental functions of Mother Earth.*

# Target 20:

## Strengthen Capacity-Building, Technology Transfer, and Scientific and Technical Cooperation for Biodiversity



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to promote better sharing of knowledge about biodiversity. This includes better recognition of Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge and supporting collaboration between Indigenous and (other) scientific methods to strengthen biodiversity protection.

This target aims to improve how scientific knowledge is shared and created around the world. It recognises that the global north still controls most research and technology development. It aims to make these processes fairer, through more capacity-building and sharing of technology and knowledge between countries in the global south as well as between the global north and south.

Making these knowledge systems more equal also means recognising Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge as an essential part of understanding biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples have their own rich and diverse knowledge systems, which often match or even surpass 'external' scientific knowledge in their territories. This knowledge can contribute a lot to the increase of scientific and technical cooperation for biodiversity. There is growing interest in collaboration between modern (Western) scientific methods and traditional knowledge to improve biodiversity action and outcomes, but this approach is not yet widely used. This target represents an opportunity to increase, and increase recognition for, Indigenous Peoples' contribution to global knowledge about nature.

This target may also provide support for Indigenous Peoples who are interested in learning new ways of studying biodiversity (such as camera trapping) or applying external technologies (such as biodiversity monitoring using telephones or GPS devices). They can use these skills in their own territorial management, with the option to collaborate with external actors. These kinds of initiatives, which reflect the continuation and evolution of Indigenous governance and territorial management systems, also support the achievement of this target.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Strengthen capacity-building and development, access to and transfer of technology, and promote development of and access to innovation and technical and scientific cooperation, including through South-South, North-South and triangular cooperation, to meet the needs for effective implementation, particularly in developing countries, fostering joint technology development and joint scientific research programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and strengthening scientific research and monitoring capacities, commensurate with the ambition of the goals and targets of the framework.

# Target 21:

## Ensure that Knowledge is Available and Accessible to Guide Biodiversity Action



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target aims to support better biodiversity decision-making by improving access to knowledge and data, including Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge – ensuring that it is used ethically and with free, prior and informed consent.



*Community-based biodiversity monitoring, Kenya. Credit: Chepkitala Indigenous Peoples Development Project (CIPDP)*

Having better information about biodiversity helps people make better decisions about it. Target 21 aims to support decision-makers at local, national and global levels by making information about biodiversity better and easier to access. This will lead to more effective biodiversity action across all targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

The target brings together several important elements:

- Improving access to relevant biodiversity data, information and knowledge
- Communication, awareness-raising, education
- Knowledge management
- Monitoring
- Research

Indigenous Peoples hold unique traditional knowledge that is important for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. Their knowledge, practices, innovations, and technologies can greatly enhance information and understanding about biodiversity. This knowledge already guides decision-making within their territories and often contributes beyond them, such as through partnerships with researchers or when Indigenous Peoples choose to share their knowledge with others.

As the value of Indigenous traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies is increasingly recognised, there are more opportunities for their knowledges and values to play a more important role in informing biodiversity action. The contribution made by Indigenous Peoples can also be strengthened, for example through supporting Indigenous-led monitoring or research initiatives.

Target 21 also includes an important safeguard. States and others should only access and use the traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of Indigenous Peoples with their free, prior and informed consent. Applying the [CARE principles for Indigenous data governance \(ownership and control of data\)](#) – Collective benefit, Authority to control, Responsibility and Ethics – could also help ensure that Indigenous traditional knowledge can contribute to the global store of data, information and knowledge in a just and ethical way.

 [GO BACK TO MENU](#)

## Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, practices, innovations, and technologies can greatly enhance information and understanding about biodiversity.



### TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 21 can be monitored in part by states using the linguistic diversity indicator - one of the four traditional knowledge indicators.



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure that the best available data, information and knowledge, is accessible to decision makers, practitioners and the public to guide effective and equitable governance, integrated and participatory management of biodiversity, and to strengthen communication, awareness-raising, education, monitoring, research and knowledge management and, also in this context, traditional knowledge, innovations, practices and technologies of indigenous peoples and local communities should only be accessed with their free, prior and informed consent, in accordance with national legislation.

# Target 22:

## Ensure Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice and Information Related to Biodiversity for All



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

This target seeks to improve the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples – as well as women, youth and other groups – in decisions about biodiversity, across all Global Biodiversity Framework goals.

Indigenous Peoples have a cultural and holistic understanding of nature based on their traditional knowledge, practices and innovations, which is essential for conserving and sustainably using biodiversity. For example, Indigenous Peoples have a deep understanding of their local ecosystems. This understanding supports Indigenous Peoples to develop effective conservation initiatives that integrate cultural values, traditional governance systems and customary sustainable use.

Target 22 includes several elements aiming to enhance the contributions that Indigenous Peoples (and other groups, including Indigenous women and girls) can make to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as well as to ensure the respect and protection of their rights. These elements aim to ensure:

- Full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in biodiversity-related decision-making
- Access to justice in relation to biodiversity-related actions, laws, policies, programmes etc that may affect them
- Respect for their cultures and rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge
- Access to information related to biodiversity
- Protection of environmental human rights defenders – which includes the collective protection of Indigenous Peoples who are defending their territories as well as the nature within them.



## TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INDICATOR

Target 22 will be monitored in part by three of the four traditional knowledge indicators, including the land tenure indicator, the participation indicator and the linguistic diversity indicator.

This cross-cutting target is relevant for the implementation of all the goals and targets throughout the Global Biodiversity Framework. The target also recognises the importance of meaningful participation of women and girls, as well as the inclusion of children, youth and persons with disabilities, in promoting social equity and empowering these groups to actively contribute to biodiversity conservation.

[GO BACK TO MENU](#)



A public consultation of certification schemes in Long Isun, Indonesia. Credit: Angus MacInnes, FPP



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure the full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive representation and participation in decision-making, and access to justice and information related to biodiversity by indigenous peoples and local communities, respecting their cultures and their rights over lands, territories, resources, and traditional knowledge, as well as by women and girls, children and youth, and persons with disabilities and ensure the full protection of environmental human rights defenders.

# Target 23:

## Ensure Gender Equality and a Gender-Responsive Approach for Biodiversity Action



### WHY THIS MATTERS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Women and girls – especially Indigenous women and girls – face discrimination in biodiversity action and decision-making. This target aims to ensure that the Global Biodiversity Framework is implemented in ways that support gender equality.



*Yanesha women's meeting, Central forest, Peru. Credit: CHIRAPAQ*

Target 23, which aims to ensure gender equality and a gender-responsive approach to biodiversity action, is another cross-cutting target that is relevant to all the goals and targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework.

There are many considerations in considering how this target applies in the context of Indigenous Peoples. An important starting point is recognising the intersectional discrimination that Indigenous women and girls experience – this means that they are discriminated against both because they are Indigenous and because they are women.

For example, they may be more vulnerable to violence in contexts where external actors take actions that harm biodiversity on their territory, or when their community is resisting dispossession. They may also be excluded from consultations that only involve men, meaning their priorities and knowledge are not taken into account. Women's knowledge, practices and innovations – sometimes distinct from those of men – may not be understood or considered by researchers who do not make an active effort to ask for women's views.

Ensuring just outcomes for Indigenous men and women requires understanding and analysing how different biodiversity laws, policies, processes and measures can affect them differently. It is also critically important that implementation of this target respects and understands the relationship between women's rights and collective rights in the context of Indigenous Peoples, including in relation to land.

There may sometimes also be a role for Indigenous Peoples to advance this target in their own internal arrangements, through collectively discussing and reviewing their own internal rules and practices and making changes where this is needed to ensure gender justice.

[> GO BACK TO MENU](#)

An important starting point is recognising the intersectional discrimination that Indigenous women and girls experience – this means that they are discriminated against both because they are Indigenous and because they are women.



### OFFICIAL CBD TARGET TEXT

Ensure gender equality in the implementation of the framework through a gender-responsive approach where all women and girls have equal opportunity and capacity to contribute to the three objectives of the Convention, including by recognizing their equal rights and access to land and natural resources and their full, equitable, meaningful and informed participation and leadership at all levels of action, engagement, policy and decision-making related to biodiversity.

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