



# Advancing integration of traditional ecological knowledge holders and women in CBD processes: a researcher's perspective

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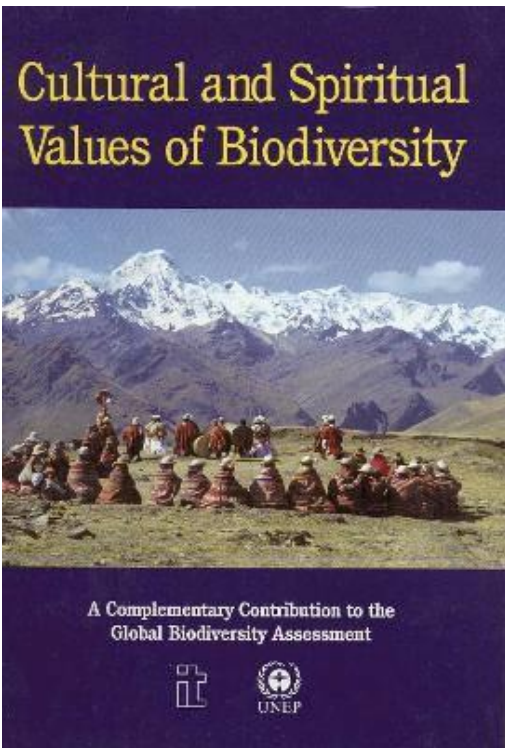
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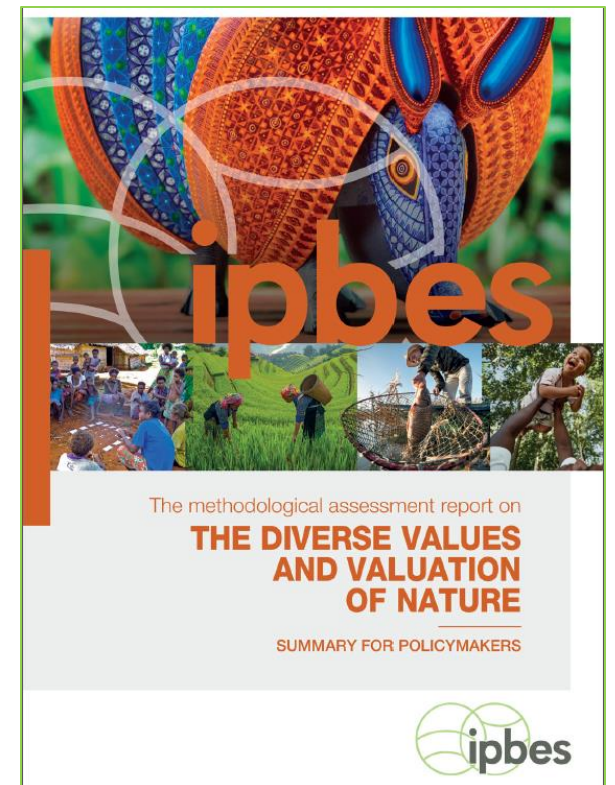


*Western science may have invented the words ‘nature’, ‘biodiversity’ and ‘sustainability’, but it certainly did not initiate the concepts.*

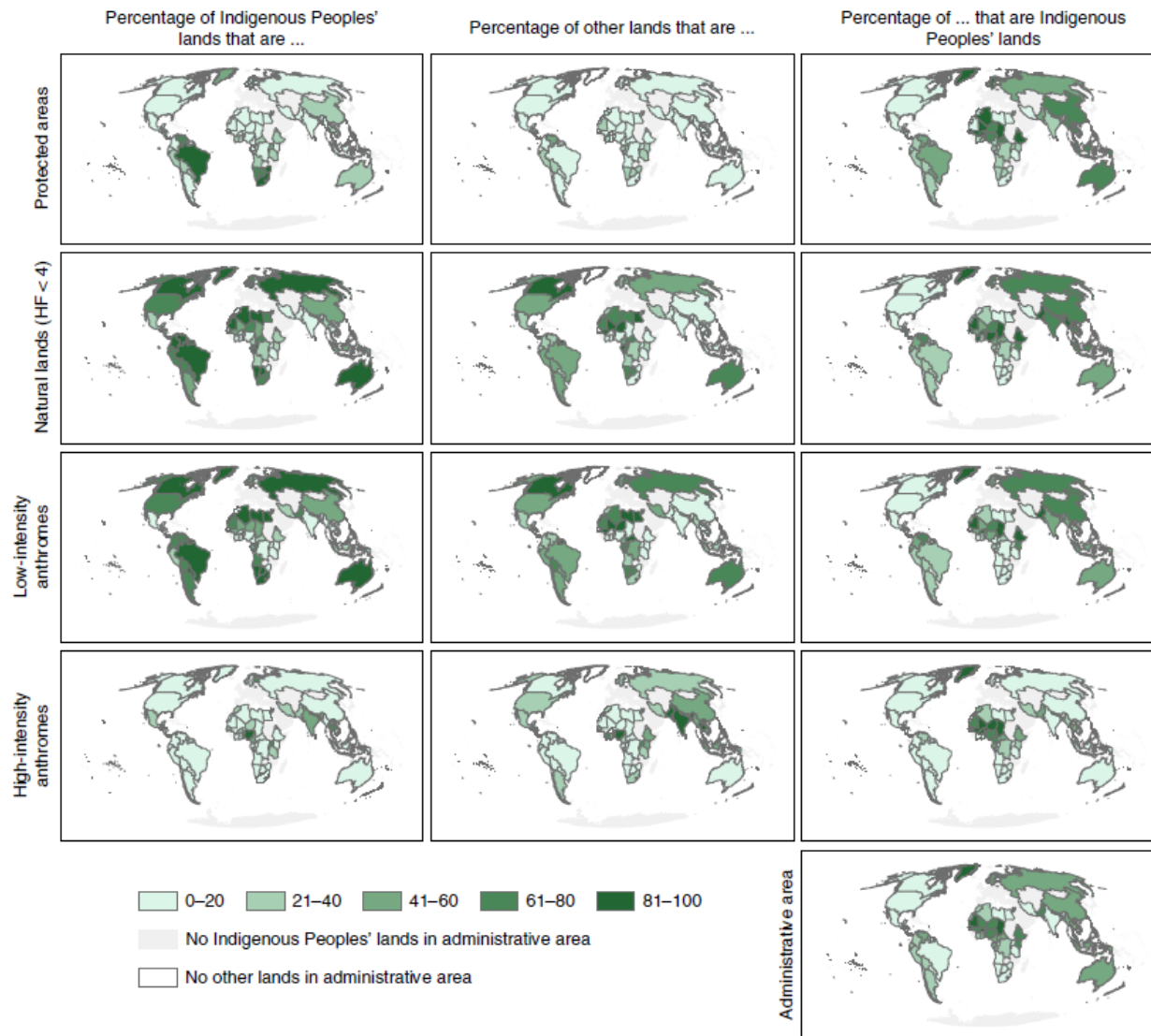
*Indigenous, traditional and local communities have sustainably utilized and conserved a vast diversity of plants, animals and ecosystems since the dawn of Homo Sapiens.*

*Furthermore, human beings have moulded environments through their conscious and unconscious activities for millennia – to the extent that it is **often impossible to separate nature from culture.***

***Applying western science concepts and procedures to describe and characterize valuation undertaken by indigenous peoples and local communities risks misrepresenting their world-views and valuation practices, since specific methods cannot be decoupled from their communal world-views, practices and traditions.***



# Traditional knowledge holders play a vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity



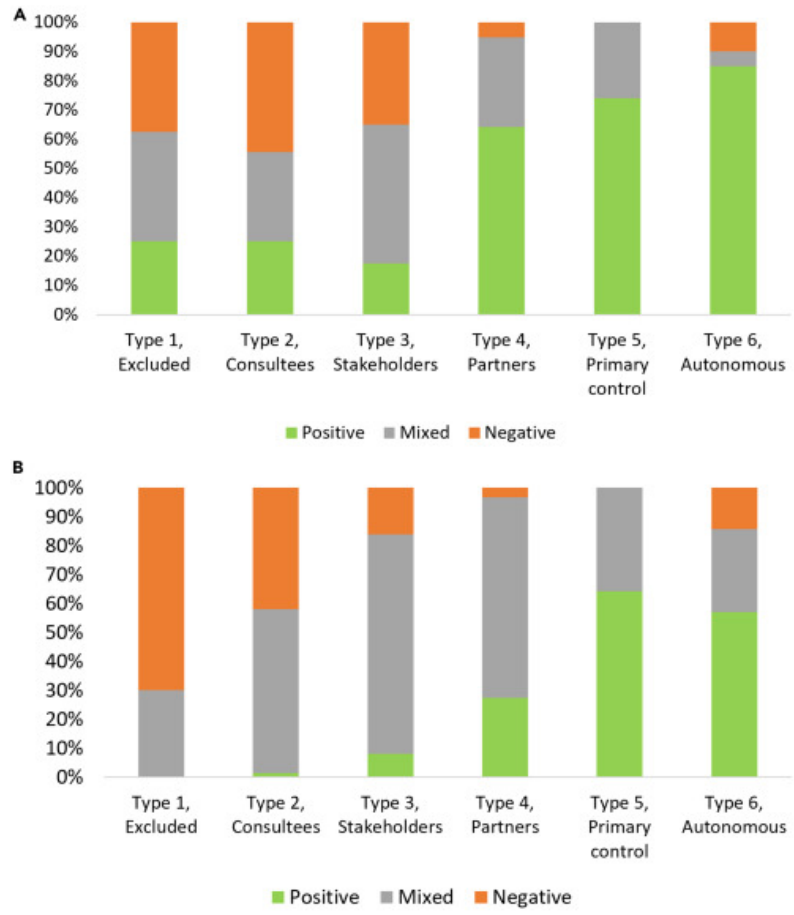
*Over a quarter of the world's land surface, and about 40% of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes are managed by Indigenous Peoples (Garnett et al., 2018. Nature Sustainability)*

*More than 50% of Europe's most highly valued biotopes occur in **low-intensity farmlands**. (Bignal and McCracken, 1996)*

Out of the 231 habitats listed in Annex I of the Habitats Directive, **63 have been shown to be fully (23) or partly (40) dependent on agricultural practices.** (Halada et al., 2011)

**Fig. 2 | Spatial comparison of Indigenous Peoples' and other lands.** National percentages of Indigenous Peoples' and other lands in protected areas<sup>13</sup>, with a Human Footprint score < 4 (ref. <sup>22</sup>) and in low- and high-intensity anthromes<sup>14</sup>, as well as the percentage of each land type that is mapped as either Indigenous Peoples' or other.

# Traditional knowledge holders play a vital role in the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity



[Download: Download high-res image \(302KB\)](#)  
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Figure 2. The ecological and social outcomes associated with six types of roles of Indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation governance (A and B) The ecological outcomes (A) and the social outcomes (B) associated with the six types of roles of IPs and LCs in governance (170 and 288 reviewed empirical cases, respectively). (Dawson et al., 2024. One Earth)



(Molnár et al., 2024. TREE)

## Transylvania / Carpathians

maxima of vascular plant species richness ever recorded  
 115 species / 10m<sup>2</sup> (Roleček et al., 2021) – near Cluj Napoca  
 83 species / 16m<sup>2</sup> (Babai, pers. comm.) – Gyimes



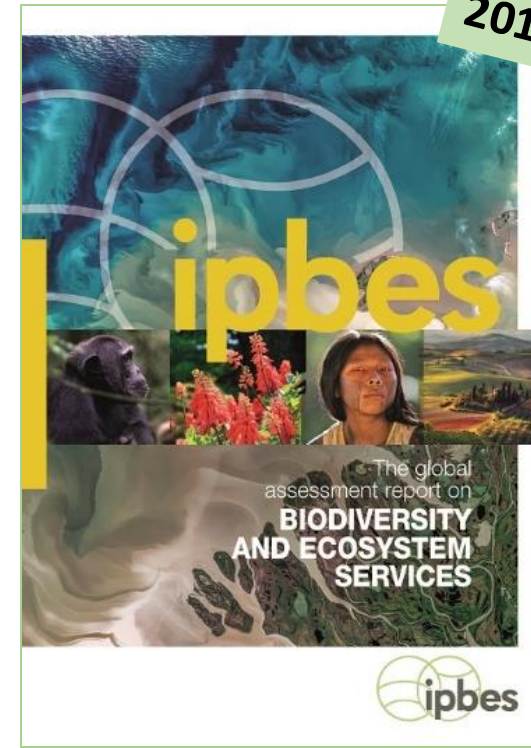
Convention on  
Biological Diversity

1992

**Art 8 (j) – in situ conservation**

Subject to its national legislation, **respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** embodying **traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity** and **promote their wider application** with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices and encourage the equitable **sharing of the benefits** arising from the utilization of such knowledge, innovations and practices

2019



e.g. dialogue  
workshops

2024





### **Art 10 (c) – sustainable use of components of biological diversity**

**Protect and encourage customary use of biological resources** in accordance with traditional cultural practices that are compatible with conservation or sustainable use requirements;

### **Art 17 – exchange of information**

2. exchange of information shall include exchange of results of technical, scientific and socio-economic research, as well as information on training and surveying programmes, specialized knowledge, **indigenous and traditional knowledge**...

### **Art 18 – technical and scientific cooperation**

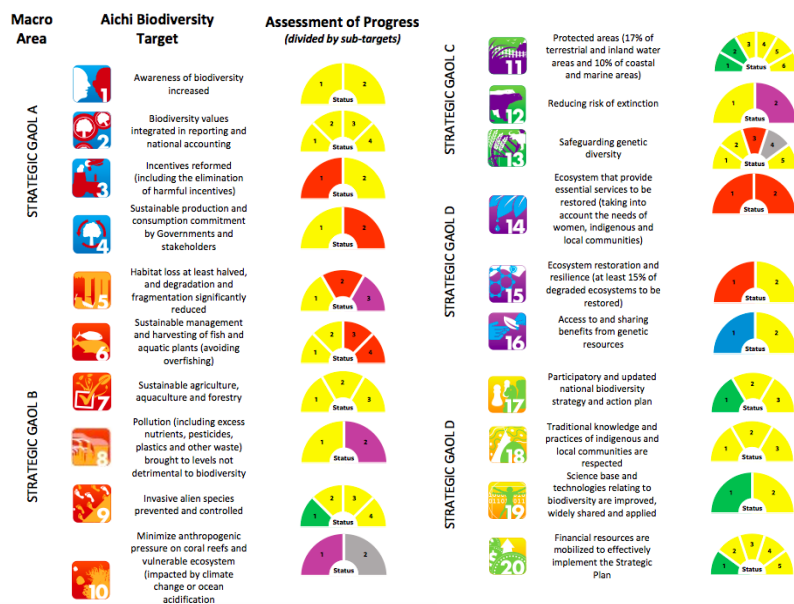
4. The Contracting Parties shall, in accordance with national legislation and policies, encourage and develop methods of cooperation for the development and use of technologies, **including indigenous and traditional technologies**, in pursuance of the objectives of this Convention

# The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011



United Nations Decade on Biodiversity

## Aichi Biodiversity Targets



By 2020, **traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as their **customary sustainable use**, are **respected**, subject to the provisions of national legislation and applicable international obligations, and are **fully integrated and taken into account** in the implementation of the Convention, with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.



By 2020, the **genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals** and of wild relatives, including other **socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species**, is maintained...

**Aichi Target 14** – ecosystem services

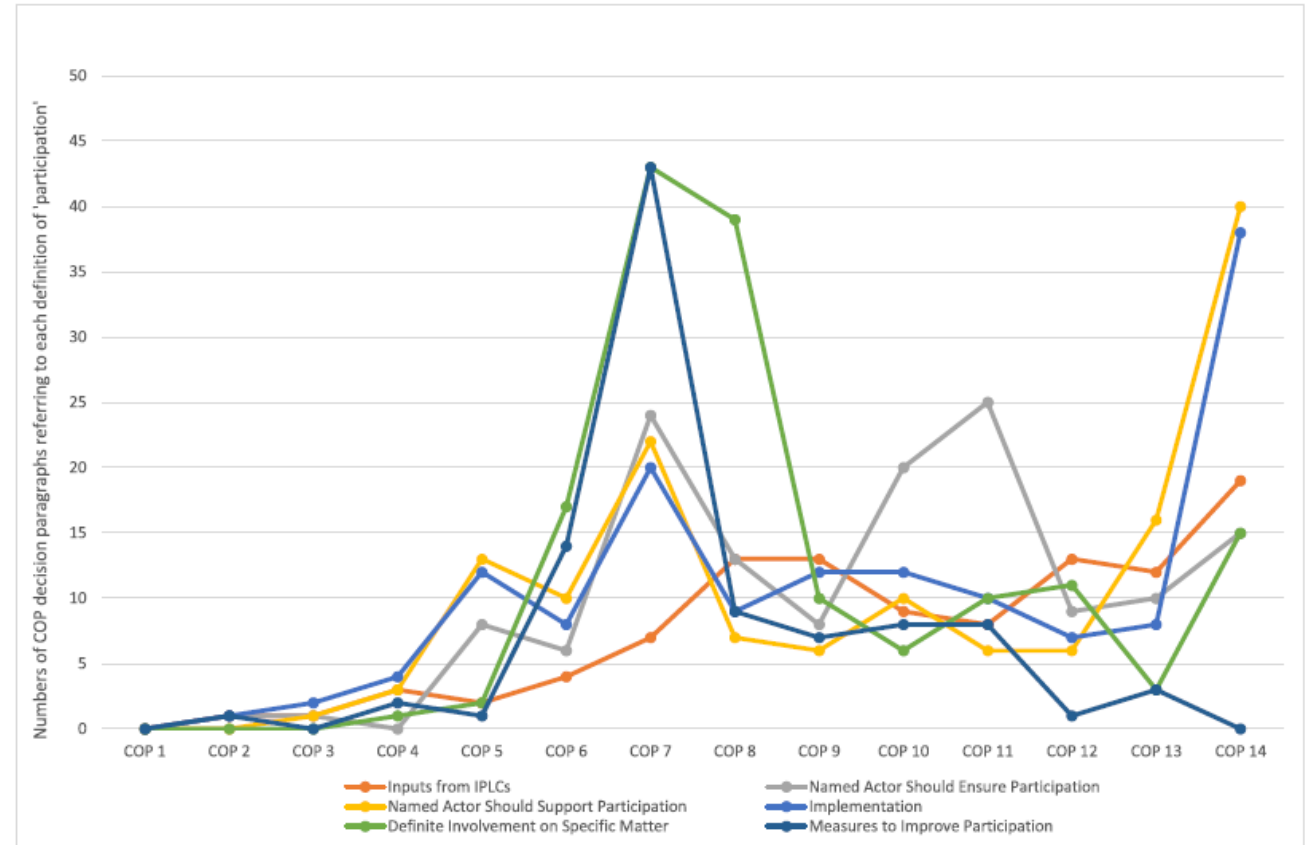
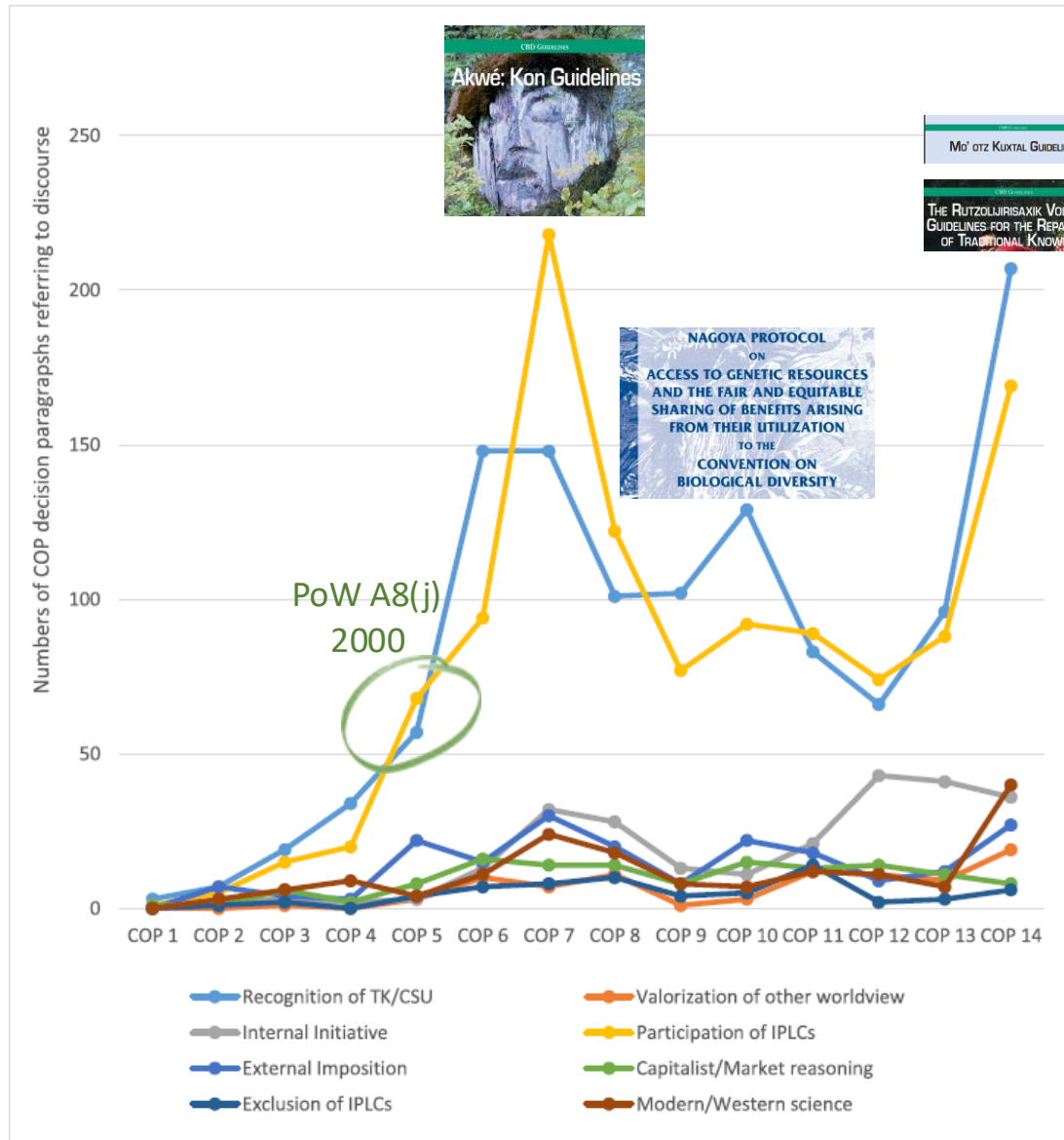
2022

12 of the 23 KM-GBF Targets

## THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework





Meanings ascribed to IPLCs' participation in the CBD

Discursive space for IPLCs in the CBD

(Parks and Tsioumani, 2023. Biol. Cons.)

# Global Biodiversity Outlook 4

A mid-term assessment of progress towards the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020



2016



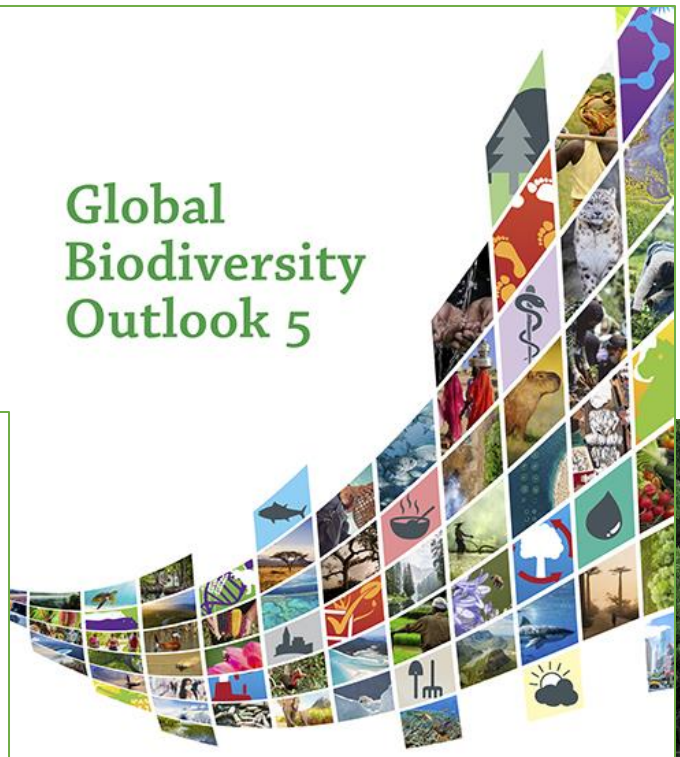
## LOCAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOKS

Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Contributions to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

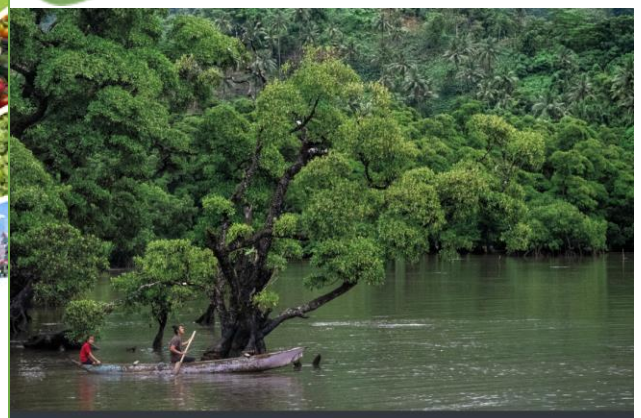
A complement to the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook



# Global Biodiversity Outlook 5



2020

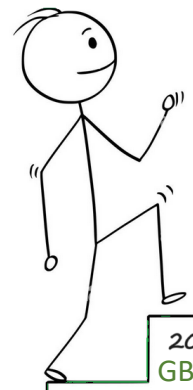


## Local Biodiversity Outlooks 2

The contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020 and to renewing nature and cultures.

A complement to the fifth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook.  
Published by Forest Peoples Programme in collaboration with Centres of Distinction, Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

2014



1993

2001  
GBO1

2006  
GBO2

2010  
GBO2

2020



How CBD Parties recognise the role of IP&LC, their TK and practices for the maintenance of biodiversity.

[Article 26](#) of the CBD - Parties to submit reports on the measures & effectiveness to implement the provisions, ~ every 4 ys



The screenshot shows the 'reports' section of the Convention on Biological Diversity website. The page features a navigation menu, a main banner for 'NATIONAL REPORTS', and a central text area with a highlighted deadline. A bar chart on the right shows the status of national reports received by various parties and countries.

**Navigation:** INFORMATION, ABOUT THE SECRETARIAT, Sign up for an account | Sign In, English, Search

**Convention on Biological Diversity**

**BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION | CARTAGENA PROTOCOL | NAGOYA PROTOCOL | COUNTRIES | PROGRAMMES**

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

**NATIONAL REPORTS**

**What's New?**

**7NR Guidance and Template**

In **decision 15/6**, Parties are requested to submit their **seventh national report by 28 February 2026** and their **eighth national report by 30 June 2029** to enable the preparation of the global reviews, as adopted in **decision 16/32**, using the **guidance and template** available on the **7th National Report page**.

Parties are also requested to use the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted in **decision 15/5**, including the technical updates agreed in **decision 16/31**, in their national reports. The headline indicators and binary indicators are a main element of the national reporting template. Parties, can, as appropriate, also use the disaggregations of the headline indicators, and the optional component and complementary indicators identified in the monitoring framework in their national reports along with any relevant national indicators.

**NR Status**

| NR Status                 | Count |
|---------------------------|-------|
| 151 NR1 Received          | 151   |
| 137 NR2 Received          | 137   |
| 153 NR3 Received          | 153   |
| 179 NR4 Received          | 179   |
| 192 NR5 Received          | 192   |
| 103 NR6 Received (online) | 103   |
| 196 CBD Parties           | 196   |
| 198 Countries             | 198   |

## Methods: Rationale for scoring the acknowledgement of the contribution of IP&LC and TK



Aichi Target **18**: By 2020, the **traditional knowledge**...



Aichi Target **13**: By 2020, the genetic diversity of **cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals** and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as **culturally valuable species**

### Score

### Levels of self-reporting by Parties on the contribution of IP&LC and TK

**0** **no mention**: section on Aichi Target 18 missing, IP&LC and TK not mentioned in other sections either

**1** IP&LC and TK mentioned **only when quoting** either the definition of the Aichi Targets or similar phrases

### Levels of self-reporting on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in line with Aichi Target 18 (traditional knowledge respected)

**2** **contribution mentioned to a limited extent**, without national context or clear examples

**3** **contribution mentioned only in relation** to crop varieties, livestock breeds, cultivation, or medicinal plants

**4** **explicitly stated** that IP&LC contributions and TK are beneficial for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including seminatural habitats, forests, coastal waters, etc., but without developing or arguing the idea further

**5** **argued how** IP&LC contributions and TK are beneficial (in which habitats and through what kind of management, practices); mentioned the mechanisms of these processes (e.g., community protected areas, rules, taboos, sacred site)

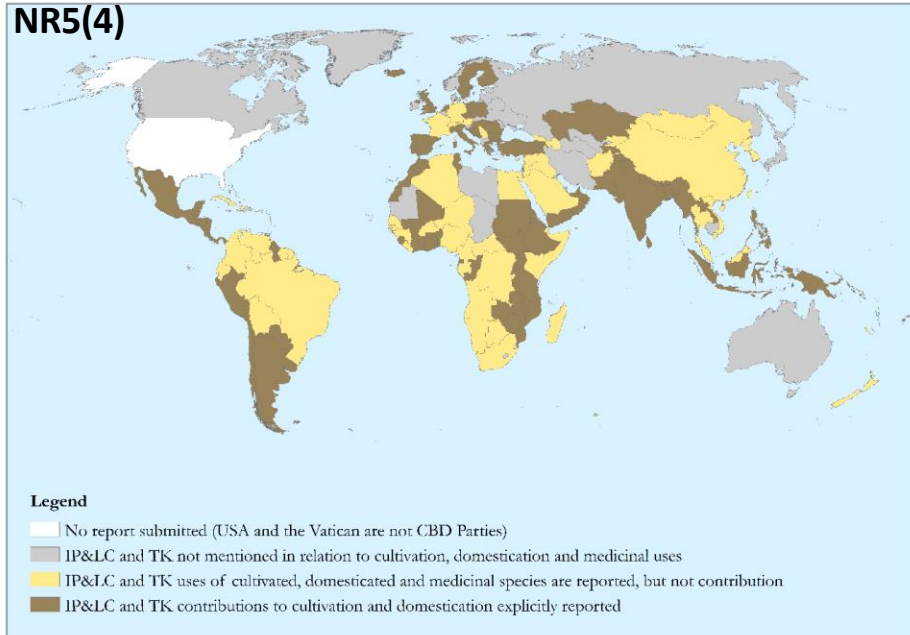
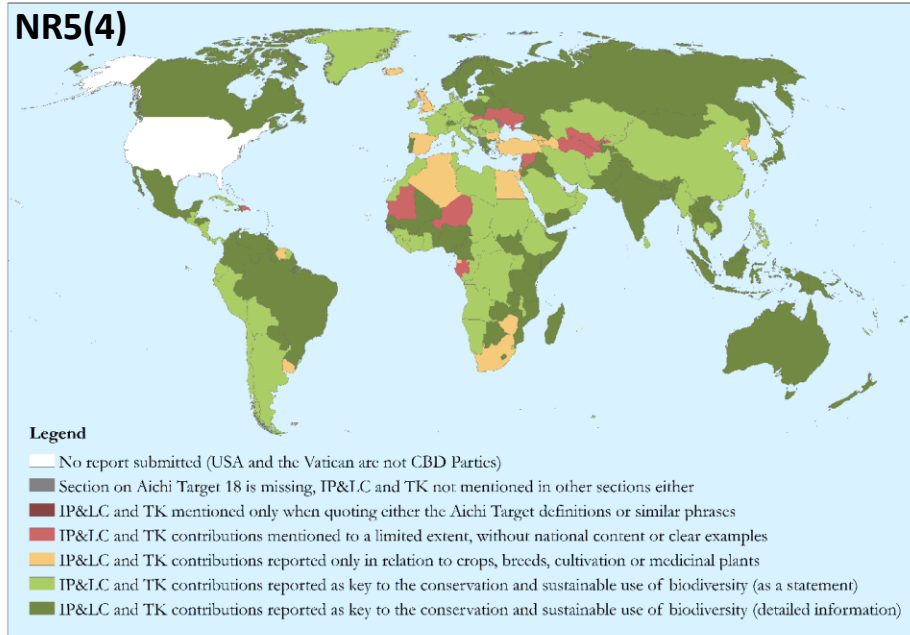
### Levels of self-reporting on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to cultivation and domestication in line with Aichi Target 13 (genetic diversity maintained)

**0** IP&LC and TK **not mentioned**. Often, local breeds and varieties are mentioned, but nothing about the farmers, the people who maintain these

**1** IP&LC and TK **mentioned only in relation to uses**, incl. medicinal uses

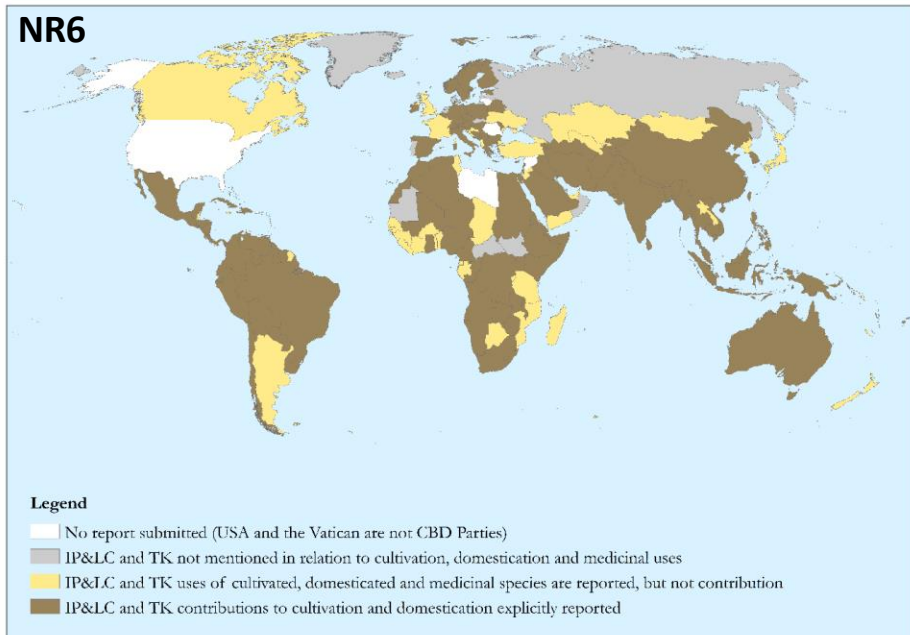
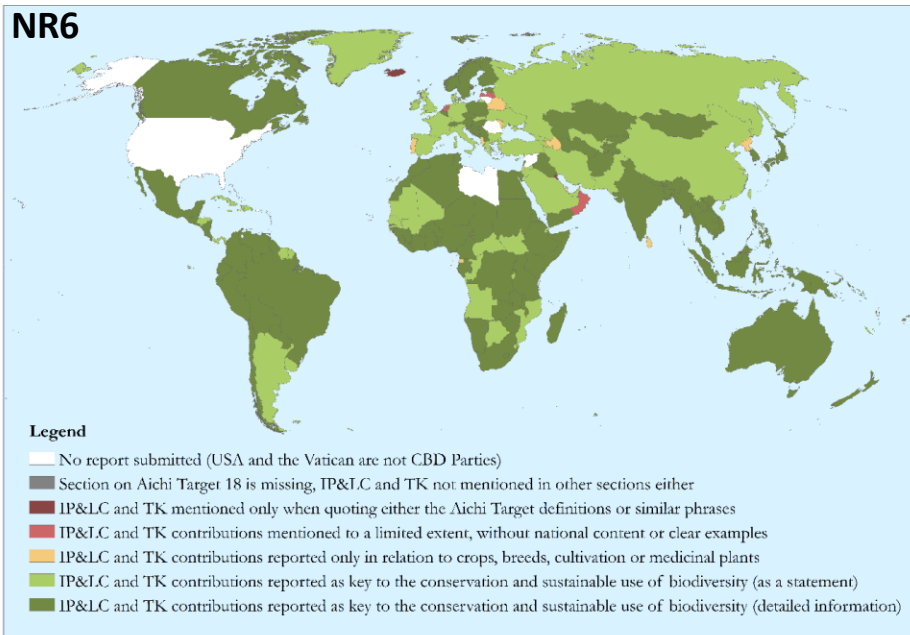
**2** **explicit mention of IP&LC and TK contribution** (i.e., domestication, seed collection)

# Results How the CBD Parties self-reported on the role of IP&LC TK in relation with the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity



**NR5**  
 33 Parties scored maximum for traditional knowledge respected (score 5, AT18) as well as for genetic diversity maintained (score 2, AT13)

13 Parties scored minimum in both categories



**NR6**  
 the number of Parties scoring maximum in both categories nearly tripled (80)  
 and the number of Parties scoring minimum in both categories halved (6).

**CBD NR5 – 16 countries out of 195** (14 Europe, incl. 10 EU MS)

**CBD NR6 – 24 countries out of 189** (17 Europe, incl. 10 EU MS)

**Austria:** *“Austria has **no indigenous and local communities as understood by the Convention**. Traditional knowledge (although no accepted definition is available) within the meaning of cultural heritage and agricultural knowledge is important for biodiversity in Austria)”*

**Croatia:** *“There are **no local communities in Croatia that depend exclusively on the ecosystems capacity to support livelihood**.*

**United Kingdom:** *“**Although** traditional knowledge is used by some members of local communities in the UK, it is **not a focus** for government action to preserve its use and it is therefore not assessed.”*

**The Netherlands:** *“The Netherlands has no indigenous peoples or local communities as defined by the CBD **within its borders**. It can, however, substantially affect indigenous and local communities beyond its borders through international cooperation”*

### **Czech Republic**

*The status of numerous species, particularly of those dependent on sites formed and managed by man in the past, is getting worse. This is due to the **lack of traditional management and abandonment** of the previously utilised land.*

## Challenges faced by IP&LC and TK mentioned in the reports

*“asymmetrical relationship between the communities that own the biological resources, who have control over them, and the users”* (Ecuador, NR5, translation)

*“IP have been **excluded** (...) policy led to **failures** in their implementation* (Ghana, NR6)

*“**isolation of IP from its management** and undermining the centuries old traditional management systems”* (Pakistan, NR6)

*“absence of communities in biodiversity management has been one of the causes of the **failure** of most management policies and conservation programmes worldwide”* (Venezuela, NR5).

*“there is no scientific backing for these efforts, and they are not coordinated”* (Belize, NR5)

*“these regulations make no reference to the protection of TK (...) but require compliance (...) **without providing specific amendments on practicing traditions and TK**”* (Romania, NR5).

*“Due to the **distorting effect of agricultural subsidies** and the decrease in the number of grazing animals made farmers turn grasslands to arable lands.* (Hungary, NR5)

## Involvement in the writing of the report

**NR5:** Consultations with civil society representatives, NGOs or ‘various stakeholders’ were mentioned in 80 reports  
29 reports made this explicit.

*“Following review of the CBD Guidelines and Manual (...), consultation with stakeholders was initiated”* (Seychelles),

**NR6:** 16 explicit mentions, and 34 reports mentioned the participation of civil society representatives.

# Women in the / missing from (!) CBD reports

FS Micronesia, Equatorial Guinea:  
NR5&6 report preparation

*Women often hold traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity (Switzerland, NR6) ecosystems that are particularly important for the well-being of women and IPLCs (Belarus, NR6)*

GRASS CEILING  
Supports:  
**15 OCT 2024**

**INTERNATIONAL DAY OF RURAL WOMEN**

**Rural Women Sustaining Nature for Our Collective Future:**  
Building climate resilience, conserving biodiversity, and caring for land towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101083408



### Evidence of awareness on IP&LC and TK contributions based on the full content analysis of CBD national reports

The increase in mentioning might be partially explained by the fact that for NR6 a **specific section** regarding IP&LC was added in the reporting sheet – Section VI

### Contributions not acknowledged due to terminology confusion

**misinterpretation** of Article 8(j) & **questioning its relevance**

*“respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities **embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity**”.*

contemporary industrialised societies where **TK is upheld mainly by individuals** / organized in networks

**inconsideration** of many TK holders (= injustice, undermine their work, triggers further **biodiversity loss**)



### Involvement of IP&LC and women in national reporting

**NGOs or other civil society representatives were much more likely to be included** than IP&LC representatives in the reporting process, and for both categories, this occurred primarily in developing countries

The importance of the **reporting template** is apparent also from the lower number of explicit mentions of IP&LC involvement in the reporting process for NR6.

## Conclusions and recommendations

- Parties must **reevaluate the relevance of Article 8(j)** in their case and recognise the contribution of all TK holders
  - Parties need to rely more on the expertise of **shadow and complementary reporting**, for a better **triangulation of knowledge**
- Increasing the number of **non-governmental experts and scientists** involved in the CBD process, including the reporting, in line with COP decisions 15/6, 16/4, 16/5 and 16/32

LOCAL  
BIODIVERSITY  
OUTLOOKS



**INDIGENOUS  
NAVIGATOR**  
Data by and for Indigenous Peoples

- Parties should ensure **inclusive representation** of IP&LC and other TK holders
- Parties should review and **learn from other Parties' submissions**
- Parties should aim to ensure that the **information in their reports is both clear and useful** – contextualising Indigenous terms
- Parties should give greater attention to IP&LC and TK **content placement throughout the report sections**

To improve the reporting process and the subsequent engagement with IP&LC and TK on the longer term

- Parties need to encourage **full TK holder engagement throughout planning, monitoring, reporting and review phases**
- Parties should be supported to designate a **national focal point for Article 8(j)** (now only 67 have one)
- CBD Secretariat should compile and publish a **model report** on its website to highlight exemplary responses
- It is recommended that the CBD Secretariat be reinforced to support **enhanced capacity for analyzing and interpreting** all submissions

Review

# Is it just conservation? A typology of Indigenous peoples' and local communities' roles in conserving biodiversity

Neil M. Dawson,<sup>1,2,\*</sup> Brendan Coolsaet,<sup>3,4,\*</sup> Aditi Bhardwaj,<sup>5</sup> Francesca Booker,<sup>6</sup> David Brown,<sup>1,7</sup> Bosco Liiso,<sup>8,9</sup> Jacqueline Loos,<sup>10,11</sup> Adrian Martin,<sup>1</sup> Malena Oliva,<sup>12</sup> Unai Pascual,<sup>9,15</sup> Pasang Sherpa,<sup>13</sup> and Thomas Worsdell<sup>14</sup>






Biological Conservation

Volume 280, April 2023, 109933




## Transforming biodiversity governance? Indigenous peoples' contributions to the Convention on Biological Diversity

Louisa Parks , Elsa Tsioumani  

## Conservation Biology

CONTRIBUTED PAPER |  Open Access | 

### Global overview of progress in respecting the contributions of traditional knowledge in biodiversity governance

[Kinga Öllerer](#) , [Pernilla Malmer](#), [Marianna Biró](#), [Noor Noor](#), [Polina Shulbaeva](#), [Maurizio Farhan Ferrari](#), [Suneetha M. Subramanian](#), [András Báldi](#), [Zsolt Molnár](#)



# Thank you for your attention!

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