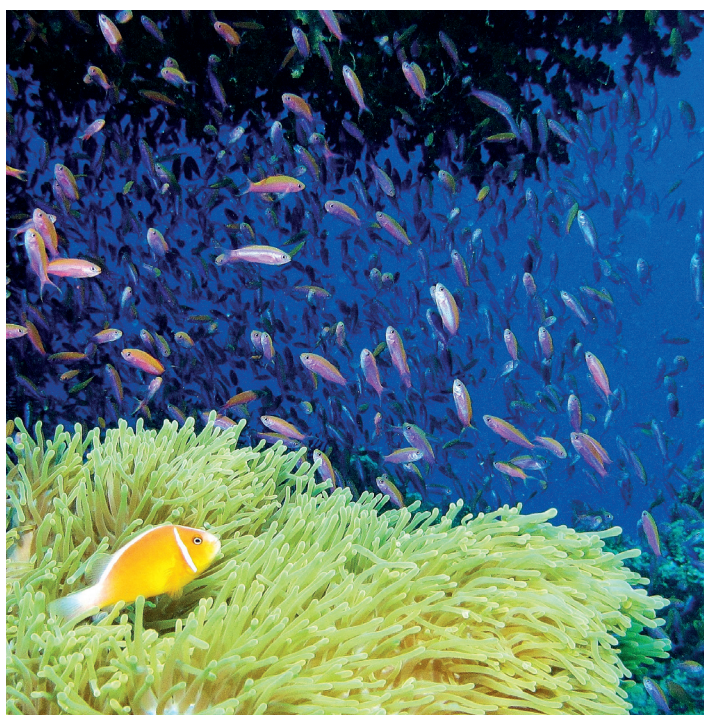




LOCAL BIODIVERSITY OUTLOOKS SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

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





Convention on
Biological Diversity



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Citation:

Forest Peoples Programme, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2016) *Local Biodiversity Outlooks – Summary and Conclusions*. Moreton-in-Marsh, England.

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Layout and design: Raygun design, UK.

Acknowledgments:

The Local Biodiversity Outlooks: Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Contributions to the Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has been edited by Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) based on case studies submitted by members of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) from all regions. The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity and many other organisations have generously contributed their time, energy and expertise to the preparation of this publication. For the complete list of acknowledgments and references please see the main Local Biodiversity Outlooks report. The production of this publication was enabled through the financial contributions of SRC/SwedBio and the European Union.

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Introduction and background

In 2010, the Conference of Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) adopted the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, which provides a roadmap for the United Nations Decade on Biodiversity (2011–2020) and a global framework for action on biodiversity within the United Nations system and related environmental agreements.

At the 12th meeting of the COP to the CBD (October 2014), the fourth edition of Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) was launched, serving as a mid-term review of progress towards the targets set under the Strategic Plan. The COP, in Decision XII/1, also encouraged '*Parties, other Governments and relevant organizations, as appropriate, to take steps to disseminate widely the fourth edition of the Global Biodiversity Outlook and its findings, including by ... producing other appropriate communication products for different stakeholders and making them publicly available*'. While GBO-4 contained a number of community-based examples and initiatives contributing to the Strategic Plan, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) concluded that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) should be sharing their own success stories and challenges in relation to biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use and development. The Local Biodiversity Outlooks (LBO) is the outcome of that initiative.

The LBO is intended to complement GBO-4 by presenting the perspectives and experiences of IPLCs on the Strategic Plan and the mid-term review. It explores the significance for IPLCs of each of the Plan's five Strategic Goals and the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, and discusses the implications of recent trends and progress. It presents snapshots of on-the-ground initiatives by IPLCs and outlines key potential actions to accelerate progress in implementation of the Plan as it relates to IPLCs. It is based on accounts of local actions and case studies submitted by IPLC authors, many of whom are active within the IIFB, and the majority of the material included is new and previously unpublished.

This summary and conclusions document has been adapted from the executive summary contained in the full report and is available as a stand-alone document in English, Spanish and French (at www.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net)

The full Local Biodiversity Outlooks report is available from www.localbiodiversityoutlooks.net



Key Messages

Mainstreaming and integrating biological and cultural diversity

Biological diversity and cultural diversity are inextricably linked. Biological diversity underpins the resilience of ecosystems and cultural diversity underpins social resilience; together they increase overall resilience to environmental and social change. The conceptual framework on biodiversity and ecosystem services developed by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) describes these relationships in terms of a social–ecological system that operates at various scales in time and space. Different cultures and peoples express similar concepts in diverse ways; for example, the worldviews of many IPLCs emphasise their responsibility to ‘live well’, which includes living in balance with nature. The CBD recognises these linkages in its Articles 8(i), 10(c), as well as in Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. The information contained in this report demonstrates that integrating and mainstreaming biological and cultural diversity into all aspects of implementation of the Strategic Plan is essential if current negative trends are to be countered. Aichi Biodiversity Target 18, on traditional knowledge and customary use, is central to this endeavour and represents a cross-cutting theme, in that it enables implementation of all other targets.

IPLCs’ traditional knowledge, customary practices and local innovations offer diverse approaches to addressing the high demand for land for agriculture and the collapse of wild fisheries: two of the five principal challenges to successful implementation identified by GBO-4. More broadly, through customary systems of land and resource use and

through responsible governance of Indigenous Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), many IPLCs are working to keep the use of natural resources within safe ecological limits, to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems, to conserve threatened species that have particular cultural significance, and to maintain the genetic diversity of crops and domestic animals. Building on their traditional knowledge and natural resource management systems, and through participatory research and action, IPLCs have also made major contributions towards strengthening socio-ecological resilience against environmental variability and to carbon sequestration.

In many regards, recognition of and respect for traditional knowledge and customary use is increasing. For example, there is a substantial body of research confirming the efficacy of IPLC tenure and resource management systems in ecosystem management and in the conservation of habitats and genetic diversity. There is also real progress in bringing traditional and scientific knowledge together on the ground to improve natural resource management, partly through the use of innovative technologies. However, there are also major gaps in the mainstreaming of traditional knowledge and customary systems in processes related to the Strategic Plan, and in the acknowledgement by all parties of the role of IPLCs in offering innovative approaches to current challenges with regard to biodiversity loss as well as related challenges such as climate change.



IPLCs are actively seeking to raise awareness of biological and cultural diversity at all levels and are contributing to information flow in both directions: from the local to the global, and from the global to the local. Inter-cultural spaces and multi-stakeholder mechanisms (such as, for instance, the ICCA Consortium, the CBD-UNESCO Joint Programme on Biological and Cultural Diversity, and the Satoyama Initiative) provide opportunities to share diverse approaches and agree on ways forward.

Strengthening partnerships with IPLCs for the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity

IPLCs have an integral role to play in the overall achievement of the Strategic Plan. With greater support, and through partnerships, many of their contributions and collective actions have the potential to be scaled up and to inform national and international practice. Environmental monitoring by IPLCs is becoming an increasingly important component in collaborative environmental management, including in the control of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), and in early warning and risk prevention systems. These activities, along with complementary actions, such as campaigns and litigious processes to help to hold polluters to account, are just some of the ways IPLCs can help to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity and complement the efforts of Parties and other actors at all levels. Looking beyond the Strategic Plan to the Sustainable Development Goals 2030, IPLCs' contributions will also be integral to meeting the challenge of creating a fair and equal world where humanity lives in harmony with nature, consuming and producing products in a sustainable manner. However, to date, opportunities for the participation of IPLCs in global and national policy processes, including CBD processes, have remained limited. Specifically, many Parties have yet to develop effective mechanisms for the participation of IPLCs in the preparation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans (NBSAPs), or to acknowledge the contributions of IPLCs in national reports.

Respecting the human rights of IPLCs and securing multiple benefits for all

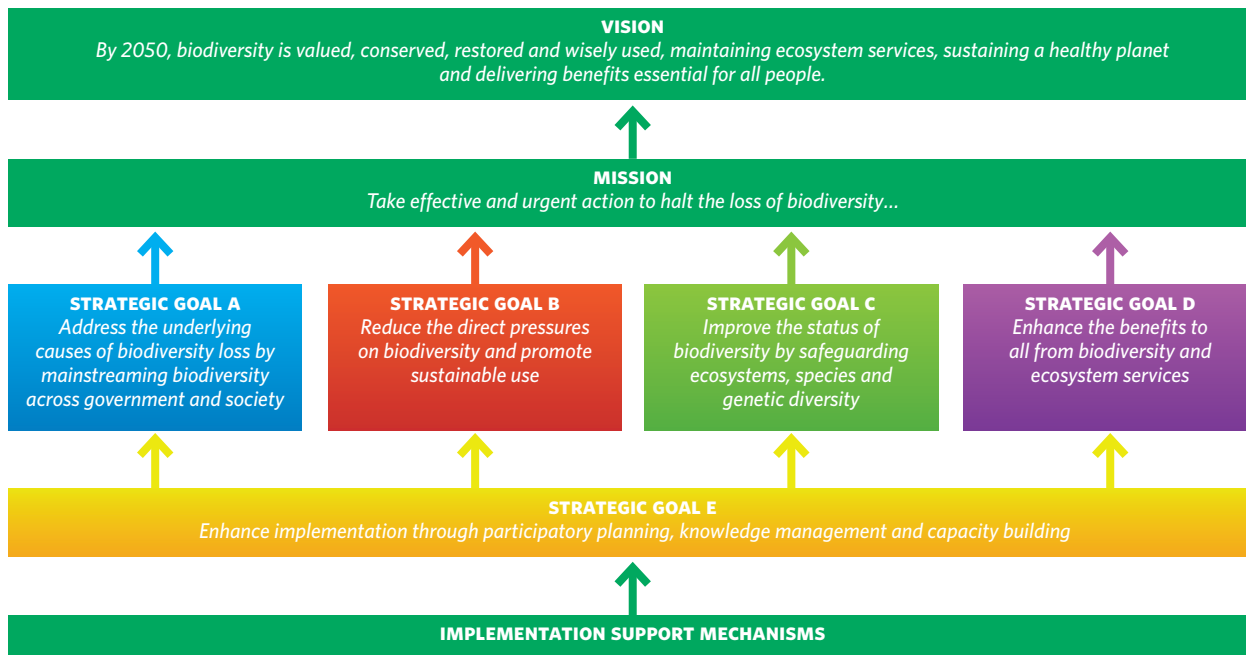
IPLCs around the world are struggling to defend their human rights in line with international law, including their rights to their ancestral lands and resources, and to meet cultural and subsistence needs from their lands. They continue to suffer human rights abuses, both from those who wish to exploit their lands for commercial gain and also in the name of conservation when it is imposed from above without due attention to issues of equity and participation. Urgent steps need to be taken to uphold IPLCs' human rights in line with international law, to counter the rise in assassinations of environmental and human rights defenders, and to adjudicate legal recognition of IPLCs' lands, territories and resources. Securing human rights contributes to securing ecosystems and biodiversity, and there is now substantial research that supports this assertion. For example, numerous studies confirm that upholding the human rights of IPLCs and ensuring their full and effective participation in decisions affecting their lands, territories, resources and traditional knowledge, including by seeking their free, prior and informed consent, lays a strong foundation for securing multiple benefits, not only for themselves but also for society in general.



Leah Macknak / Office of the Wet'suwet'en

Importance, experiences, and key actions related to IPLCs and the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020

The following section summarises the importance for IPLCs of each of the Plan's five Strategic Goals, and IPLCs' experiences and contributions to the goal. It also identifies some key potential actions that would accelerate progress towards the strategic goals, if more widely applied. The information and conclusions are based on accounts and case studies that have been submitted by IPLC authors, complemented and supported by supplementary materials and data.



This diagram shows the structure of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011–2020. Progress towards the 2050 Vision is achieved through the 2020 Mission. In turn, the Mission is addressed through five Strategic Goals under which the 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets are organised, and supported by implementation mechanisms. The Strategic Plan serves as a flexible framework for the establishment of national and regional targets and it promotes the coherent and effective implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity.



Maurizio Farhan Ferrari, FPP



Strategic Goal A

Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society



Why the goal is important to indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs)



Addressing the causes of biodiversity loss is crucially important to IPLCs because the future of biodiversity and the future of IPLCs are inextricably linked. Together, biological and cultural diversity underpin socio-ecological systems and increase resilience to environmental and social change. Mainstreaming values related to biological and cultural diversity into all aspects of governance and planning is essential if the powerful drivers of biodiversity loss are to be countered.

Experiences of IPLCs and contributions to the goal

IPLCs, with their diverse local economies, customary systems and traditional knowledge, offer complementary perspectives on the causes of biodiversity loss and are actively working to counter some of the drivers of loss. Through community land use and territorial management plans, many IPLCs are working to keep natural resource use on their lands and territories within safe ecological limits. IPLCs are also contributing to the establishment and implementation of sustainability standards in commodity supply chains. Incentive systems such as Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) can bring either benefits or challenges for IPLCs; those systems that have appropriate levels of IPLC participation and due respect for their rights can be cost-effective in conserving biodiversity while simultaneously contributing to climate change mitigation and community wellbeing.

IPLCs are actively seeking to raise awareness of biological and cultural diversity at all levels through the organisation of events; the production of written and audiovisual materials; the use of the internet and social media, and the facilitation of intercultural dialogue. IPLC networks and international fora, such as the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and the CBD's Traditional Knowledge Information Portal (TKIP), also play an important role in raising awareness of global biodiversity perspectives amongst their members. Thus IPLCs are contributing to information flow in both directions: from the local to the global and from the global to the local.

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate progress, if more widely applied

- Increase support and strengthen communication channels for education and awareness-raising about biodiversity and cultural diversity, including activities under the joint awareness-raising programme between UNESCO and the CBD secretariat on the importance of biological and cultural diversity and IPLCs' knowledge, lifestyles and low-impact development models.
- Increase engagement in intercultural dialogues on biodiversity, maintaining respect for diverse views and values.
- Integrate values related to biodiversity and cultural diversity in planning and decision-making, consistent with the CBD's ecosystem-based approach.
- Establish inclusive and robust mechanisms for increased participation and engagement of IPLCs in sustainable development planning and decision-making at all levels.
- Develop guidelines on the use of monetary and non-monetary incentives (including the granting/recognition of secure land tenure and access rights) to ensure respect for IPLCs' rights and consideration of their needs and cultural perspectives.
- Develop partnerships with IPLCs to implement and monitor compliance with economic, environmental, social, and cultural sustainability standards.
- Develop binding national regulations that complement existing voluntary standards in order to address underlying drivers of biodiversity loss. These should include national regulations for commodity supply chains.



Khumbu Sherpa Culture Conservation Society

Strategic Goal B

Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use



Why the goal is important to indigenous peoples and local communities



Biodiversity loss and unsustainable use have led to severe hardship among IPLCs and threaten the very survival of those who meet their daily needs directly from the local environment. Deforestation and reduced access to forest resources have left many IPLCs without a secure source of food and livelihoods. Unsustainable fishing is damaging not only to biodiversity but also to the survival of those who rely on aquatic resources for their basic needs. Environmental pollution directly affects the health and wellbeing of many IPLCs, and together with the spread of Invasive Alien Species (IAS), also threatens the cultural and ecological integrity of their societies, lands and resources. Many IPLCs are already experiencing severe impacts of climate change, and some have suffered forced relocations linked to melting permafrost and rising sea levels.

Experiences of IPLCs and contributions to the goal

IPLCs' customary systems, as related to their land and resources, have immense potential to contribute to efforts to reduce pressures on biodiversity and develop more sustainable forms of use. For example, research has shown that community-managed forests in the tropics have lower deforestation rates than strict protected areas; that local rule-making autonomy is associated with improved forest management; that given sufficient land, traditional shifting cultivation in South and South-east Asia is sustainable; that traditional fire management often benefits biodiversity, and that many customary fishery systems limit harvest levels and impacts. Customary systems can inform more sustainable, ecosystem-focused practices on a wider scale. Through their customary systems of land and resource use, together with safeguarding Indigenous Territories and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs), IPLCs are working to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs and other vulnerable ecosystems. They are also limiting local and global levels of pollution by maintaining and improving traditional agricultural practices. In addition, environmental monitoring by IPLCs is becoming an increasingly important component in efforts to control invasive alien species, as well as in early warning and risk prevention systems and, together with campaigns and litigation, in holding polluters to account.

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate progress, if more widely applied

- Develop national and local plans and targets for the effective implementation of the CBD Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use.
- Involve indigenous knowledge-holders in relevant expert groups and include case studies of community actions in CBD reports and databases.
- Enhance collaboration between traditional knowledge-holders and scientists to develop innovative approaches to sustainable resource use and to climate change mitigation.
- Recognise, award and support IPLC practices related to sustainable agriculture, aquaculture and forestry including collaborating with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) initiative Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS).
- Increase institutional support and funding for community-based environmental monitoring, including monitoring related to combating invasive alien species, pollution, and anthropogenic pressures on vulnerable ecosystems.
- Provide technical and financial support for participatory community risk and vulnerability assessments and for community-based adaptation action plans.
- Ensure that zero deforestation commitments safeguard IPLCs' livelihoods and tenure security.
- Support IPLCs' calls for moratoria on unsustainable resource extraction and monoculture plantations.



Strategic Goal C

Improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity



Why the goal is important to indigenous peoples and local communities

The safeguarding of ecosystems, species and genetic diversity is directly in line with IPLCs' priorities because it can support their efforts to safeguard their lands and resources. In addition, many threatened species are culturally significant to IPLCs, while genetic diversity underlies the livelihoods and food security of many IPLCs, especially in their agricultural systems. However, all too often, conservation measures continue to be imposed from above, without attention to issues of equity or appropriate opportunities for participation. This can cause extreme suffering, for example, as the result of forced evictions and displacement from traditional lands and resources; loss of livelihoods and food security following the criminalisation of traditional hunting and harvesting practices; and the loss of life, livestock and crops because of increased human-wildlife conflicts.



Experiences of IPLCs and contributions to the goal

Many IPLCs actively manage their customary lands and waters in ways that conserve them effectively, and these merit greater recognition and support. This positive relationship is exemplified by Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs), which are among the most effective territory or area-based conservation measures and cover about 12% of the world's land area. Many threatened species, including emblematic species, are actively conserved by IPLCs through customary rules and laws that guide and restrict their use. Communities are also increasingly active in monitoring threatened species and in the early identification of problems or threats. IPLCs also contribute to the maintenance of genetic diversity, particularly through their agricultural practices, and in many cases these practices provide important lessons for wider strategies to protect genetic diversity. Maintenance of crop diversity on farms and of wild plant relatives goes hand in hand with food security and security of incomes. Indigenous women play particularly important roles in this, often making key decisions about which seed varieties to maintain, propagate or discard. Livestock-keeping communities (pastoralists) play a crucial role in ensuring the continued existence of different breeds, safeguarding the genetic diversity of farmed and domesticated animals.

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate progress, if more widely applied

- Support area-based conservation by IPLCs through formal recognition of customary rights under national law, and through appropriate recognition of ICCAs and sacred sites.
- Enhance implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and review national institutional and legal frameworks on protected area governance and management.
- Urgently address equity and human rights issues related to conservation (particularly protected areas). Displacement of IPLCs from their lands and resources in contravention of international law should cease immediately.
- Promote the development of national monitoring and conflict resolution mechanisms to complement existing international mechanisms.
- Increase training opportunities for IPLCs and engagement with traditional knowledge-holders, to increase the effectiveness of conservation actions.
- Increase technical and financial support for community mapping, community-based monitoring and wider community conservation actions.
- Enhance support for on-farm and in-situ conservation by IPLCs, with a special focus on women's contributions and on the role of traditional knowledge.



Strategic Goal D

Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services



Why the goal is important to indigenous peoples and local communities



The enhancement of benefits from biodiversity and ecosystems depends fundamentally upon legal recognition of customary tenure rights, the restoration and safeguarding of cultural ecosystem services, and the enhancement of ecosystem resilience. IPLCs understand ecosystems as their customary lands, territories, waters and resources, and therefore have a strong interest in these measures. In relation to benefit-sharing, especially where benefits from biodiversity also make use of traditional knowledge, there is additional significance for IPLCs as regards their cultural and intellectual property rights. IPLCs' territories are often exploited unsustainably to capture services and products for others, causing loss and degradation of resources with negative impacts on IPLCs. Similarly many initiatives designed to safeguard ecosystems and carbon stocks have limited IPLCs' access to and use of their lands, posing a significant threat to their wellbeing as well as ultimately reducing ecosystem resilience.

Experiences of IPLCs and contributions to the goal

IPLCs around the world are working to safeguard, conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystems in their lands and territories and there is increasing and compelling evidence of the effectiveness of their actions. Some actions at the ecosystem level include community territorial and cultural mapping; vulnerability and resilience mapping; participatory development of land-use and territorial plans; and community monitoring to track external pressures, ecosystem health and land use change. Building on their traditional knowledge and natural resource management systems, and through participatory research and action, IPLCs have also made major contributions towards strengthening socio-ecological resilience to environmental variability and carbon sequestration. Pastoralists and smallholder farmers have developed an array of strategies for the sustainable use of marginal areas. In relation to the sharing of benefits, some IPLCs have also already begun to use the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization to gain recognition for their traditional knowledge, to press for a share of the benefits from commercial

products based on traditional use of genetic resources, and to develop biocultural protocols. IPLCs have also contributed in global platforms that offer opportunities for collaborative approaches, such as the Satoyama Initiative, which takes an inclusive approach and offers tools to better understand and support socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes.

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate progress, if more widely applied

- Legally recognise customary rights and tenure of IPLCs over lands, territories and resources and ensure that carbon sequestration and restoration measures give due regards to these rights.
- Increase support for IPLC practices that enhance ecosystem resilience, restore degraded ecosystems and contribute to carbon sequestration and climate adaptation.
- Expand awareness-raising, experience-sharing and capacity-building activities in relation to the Nagoya Protocol, and develop national and international legal frameworks for its implementation, with full participation of IPLCs.
- Strive for greater dialogue and mutual respect and understanding on concepts related to ecosystems/habitats, ecosystem services, resilience, climate change, carbon offsets and equitable benefit-sharing.
- Take measures to counter the rise in assassinations of environmental and human rights defenders and ensure that the perpetrators are brought to justice.



Strategic Goal E

Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity-building



Why the goal is important to indigenous peoples and local communities

Participatory planning offers an opportunity for IPLCs to contribute to the implementation of the CBD's Strategic Plan at all levels. Target 18, which comes under Goal E, is of central importance to IPLCs because it deals directly with traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use.



Experiences of IPLCs and contributions to the goal

IPLCs have much to contribute to translating the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets to the national and local level and to enhancing their implementation nationally and locally. The process of developing, updating and/or revising NBSAPs through participatory planning should enable this to happen, but in practice the process leaves much to be desired. A recent study reported that only 20 Parties reported any involvement of IPLCs in this process and 34% of NBSAPs had no targets at all relating to Target 18. Progress on Target 18 is poor: the loss of traditional knowledge is being reversed in some areas but the overall trend is one of continuing decline, with a continued loss of linguistic diversity, a decrease in traditional occupations and large-scale displacement of IPLCs.

More positively, growing recognition of the role of indigenous and local knowledge alongside scientific knowledge and of IPLCs' collective actions (for example, in recent COP Decisions on resource mobilisation) is reflected increasingly in activities on the ground. The rapid evolution of digital technologies has been significant for IPLCs, greatly enhancing their capacity to ground-truth data derived from remote sensing and global and national data sets. In terms of finance, many IPLCs' initiatives benefit from existing biodiversity funding sources, but IPLCs have reported that some of these sources are difficult for smaller organisations to access. Meanwhile, in some cases, biodiversity funding that has been allocated without the appropriate consultation and participation of IPLCs is proving to have harmful effects on IPLCs and their lands and territories.

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate progress, if more widely applied

- Ensure that effective national and sub-national mechanisms are in place for the full and effective participation of IPLCs in policy processes related to the Strategic Plan, including NBSAP processes, the compilation of national reports, and in local implementation.
- Mainstream the Programme of Work on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions and the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use and scale up their implementation by incorporating Aichi Target 18 and linkages with all other Aichi Targets into NBSAP processes.
- Establish improved mechanisms for the systematic monitoring of progress on the indicators related to Target 18.
- Provide systematic support, including funding, for concrete actions: to promote the revitalisation of indigenous languages and traditional occupations, to improve land tenure security, and for the effective application of traditional knowledge and customary systems of sustainable use.
- Explore, in consultation with IPLCs, issues around collective actions and ways to aggregate data on collective actions under all the targets in the Strategic Plan.
- Broaden the science-policy interface to include indigenous and local knowledge alongside scientific knowledge, and strengthen the interfaces between global, national, and community levels for knowledge generation, dissemination and application.



Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena (FPCI)



The way forward

In 2014, GBO-4 pointed to a worrying lack of progress in the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and this report confirms that progress is still far from adequate. However, IPLC experiences point to several positive trends, both on the ground and in policy. First, recognition of and respect for traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use is increasing. There is an increasingly substantial body of research confirming the efficacy of IPLC tenure and resource management systems in ecosystem management and in the conservation of habitats and genetic diversity. Second, there is real progress in bringing traditional and scientific knowledge together on the ground to improve natural resource management, partly through the use of innovative technologies. There is also an improved flow of information between local and global networks.

Despite the progress that has been made, overall, unsustainable exploitation continues to drive the loss and degradation of the world's ecosystems, to the detriment of biodiversity and IPLCs. Moreover, conflicts and human rights abuses continue to be shockingly commonplace, not only in the context of resource exploitation but also in relation to conservation.

Moving towards 2020 requires enhanced collaboration across broad sectors of society. IPLCs have an integral role in achieving the Strategic Plan: their contributions and collective actions complement and enrich the efforts of Parties to the Convention and other actors at all levels. To this end, this publication has identified specific actions and initiatives.



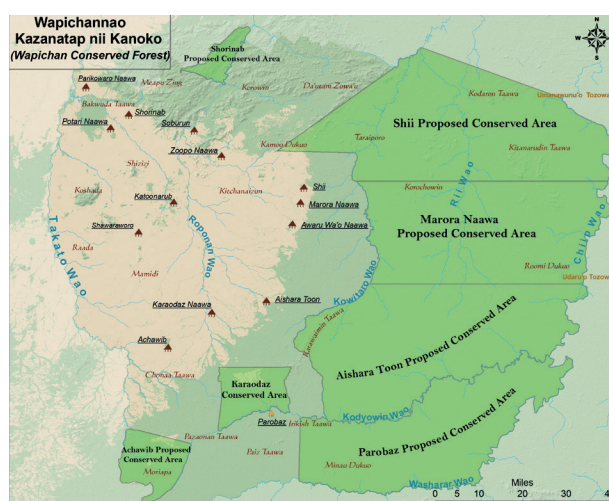
Youth training Marowijne - Julie Sutton.



Mangrove Action Project - Asia Office

Key potential actions related to IPLCs that could accelerate overall progress on implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, if more widely applied

- Recognise that biological and cultural diversity are inextricably linked, in line with the Conceptual framework for the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES-2/4), and target them together in an integrated approach to conservation and sustainable use.
- Strengthen mechanisms for the participation of IPLCs in global and national policy processes and in national and local implementation.
- Acknowledge the contributions of IPLCs' collective actions in the implementation of the Strategic Plan, including through their inclusion in NBSAP processes and national reports.
- Mainstream traditional knowledge and customary systems of resource use throughout the Strategic Plan and acknowledge their role in offering innovative approaches to current challenges related to biodiversity loss and climate change.
- Uphold the human rights of IPLCs in line with international law. All human rights violations should be publicly denounced by governments and justice pursued for the victims.
- Adjudicate legal recognition of lands, territories and resources of IPLCs.
- Increase support to IPLC initiatives and ensure that it is managed in a culturally appropriate manner and is fully accessible to them.
- Mitigate the harmful impacts of biodiversity funding on IPLCs and their lands and territories, by applying social safeguards and free, prior and informed consent (FPIC).



Wapichan map with proposed community conserved forest areas - South Central People's Development Association (SCPDA) and South Central Rupununi District Toshias Ron James, SRDC-SCPDA

This publication presents the perspectives and experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) on the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity. It is intended to complement the fourth Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO-4) by presenting the perspectives and experiences of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs), and describing their contributions towards the realisation of each of the Strategic Plan's goals and targets. To this end, accounts of local actions in different parts of the world were gathered from members of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB). The findings demonstrate that IPLCs are contributing enormously to the implementation of the Strategic Plan through their collective and on-the-ground actions, and that there is great potential for future collaboration between IPLCs and other actors in this regard.