



Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

First meeting

Panama City, 20–24 October 2025

Agenda Item 5.a - Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030: (a) Guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1);

Agenda Item 5.b - Implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030: (b) Guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2);

Thank you, Chair

I am speaking on behalf of the CBD Women's Caucus.

Recognizing the critical role of women and girls within conservation, restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessment, their rights to land, waters, and territories tenure and governance systems must be guaranteed. Across the guidelines a gender responsive approach must be embedded, which includes gender-differentiated analysis of impacts and contributions, respect and value of women's unique knowledge and priorities, as well as enabling their participation by having access to resources, ensuring safe spaces, and inclusion at every step to shape decisions from planning to implementation and monitoring.

In this regard, we suggest the following amendments to the document CBD/SB8J/1/4:

- Under Recommendations section, Paragraph 4

4. *Requests* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity, ~~subject to the availability of resources,~~ to facilitate gender-responsive and culturally appropriate capacity-building, technical cooperation and the exchange of information to assist Parties and indigenous peoples and local communities in implementing the guidelines;

- Within Section III Guiding Principles, Section A. Spiritual and Cultural Relationship, Paragraph 8

8. Conservation and restoration measures, as well as spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, should be designed in a manner that recognizes and respects the spiritual and cultural relationships that indigenous peoples and local communities, have with biodiversity in their lands, territories and waters, **including women's unique relationships**.

- **Section III Guiding Principles, Section B. Update title**

B. Recognition of and respect for customary land, waters and territories tenure and governance systems

- **Section III Guiding Principles, Section B. Paragraph 9**

9. The rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to customary land, waters and territories tenure, governance systems, customary law and procedures should be recognized and respected.

- **Section III Guiding Principles, Section B. Paragraph 9.bis**

9.bis Special measures should be taken to recognize, respect and protect the rights of women and girls from indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Section III Guiding Principles, Section D. Paragraph 11**

11. The free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected in the design, **and** implementation **and monitoring** of spatial planning and environmental impact assessment activities, including those related to the designation and management of conservation and restoration areas that may have an impact on their lands, territories, waters, resources and cultural heritage.

- **Section III, Section F on Gender equality, Paragraph 13**

13. The critical roles, **rights and contributions** of women and girls, children and youth, knowledge holders and elders from indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be recognized. Gender-responsive approaches should address **and overcome** barriers to the participation and benefit-sharing of women and girls, and children and youth **from indigenous peoples and local communities, and provide targeted support, capacity-building and direct funding for women-led initiatives**, and should safeguard the transmission of gender-specific knowledge. **Special measures should be taken to identify and eliminate, prevent and respond to all forms of gender-based violence.**

- **Under Section V: Contributions to the effective restoration, Paragraph 23,**

23. Restoration efforts should be co-designed **and** co-developed, **co-implemented and co-monitored** with indigenous peoples and local communities, **explicitly integrate the knowledge and priorities of women among them** and relevant government authorities and reflected in the revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national restoration plans and national reporting, ensuring that the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities are visible, supported and tracked through the use of appropriate indicators, **including gender-disaggregated and gender-differentiated data.**

- **Section VII: Environmental Impact Assessments, Paragraph 29.**

29. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines include cultural and social dimensions in environmental impact assessments, including evaluating impacts on spiritual values, cultural practices, customary

governance systems, traditional livelihoods, **gender considerations** and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

- **Section VIII Institutional and administrative mechanisms, Section C. Administrative arrangements, Paragraph 38,**

38. Co-management bodies should be established or strengthened under national legislation, as appropriate, to guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Co-management bodies should ensure an equitable **and gender-balanced** representation of government and indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Section VIII Institutional and administrative mechanisms, Section D. Mechanisms for conflict resolution, Paragraph 43**

43. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative and policy measures or protocols for conflict prevention, resolution, and grievance redress should be established or strengthened, ~~as appropriate,~~ **in accordance with human rights approach**. Those systems should recognize customary dispute resolution practices and safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to conservation and restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

- **Update title of Section IX.**

IX. Full and effective representation and participation

- **Section IX: Full and Effective Participation, Paragraph 44**

44. Indigenous peoples and local communities should be accorded the right to full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive **representation and** participation in all decision-making processes that may affect their rights, lands, territories, waters and resources.

- **Section IX: Full and Effective Participation, Paragraph 44.bis**

44.bis Enabling conditions should be guaranteed for women from indigenous peoples and local communities to participate without discrimination, harassment, or violence.

- **Section IX: Full and Effective Participation, Paragraph 45**

45. The **representation and** participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be ensured throughout all phases of development, planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

- **Section X: Enabling Conditions, Section A. Capacity Building, Paragraph 46,**

46. The capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant government institutions, **financial institutions, relevant organizations,** and the private sector to implement the present guidelines should be strengthened. Capacity-building efforts should be **gender-responsive,** culturally sensitive and include training for public authorities, stakeholders and the private sector to **fully implement** ~~apply~~ relevant legislation and policies ~~respectfully and effectively~~.

- Update title of Section IX, Subsection C.

C. **Direct, sustainable, inclusive and accessible financial mechanisms**

- **Section IX, Subsection C, Paragraph 49**

49. **Direct, sustainable, inclusive** and accessible financial mechanisms should be established to provide financial support for the design, implementation and monitoring of conservation, restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments led by ~~or involving~~ indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them.**

- **Section IX, Subsection C, Paragraph 50**

50. Direct funding ~~programmes~~ should be ~~developed or established~~ **ensured** to support restoration and conservation efforts, spatial planning projects and environmental impact assessments led by indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them,** within their territories. ~~The programmes should also support their full and effective participation.~~

- **Section X, Subsection D, Paragraph 52**

52. Indicators, including biocultural indicators, and community-based monitoring systems, **disaggregated by gender and age** should be operationalized to measure the effectiveness of conservation and restoration efforts led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, including for headline indicator 22.1 of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Section X, Subsection E, Paragraph 55**

55. Indigenous peoples and local communities should have timely, **gender responsive,** and culturally appropriate access to information related to conservation, restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Access includes the translation of relevant materials into indigenous **and local** languages, as well as the use of culturally appropriate formats to ~~facilitate~~ **ensure** the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities.

- **Section X, Subsection F, Paragraph 56**

56. Technical and legal support should be **culturally appropriate and should be** provided to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities, **including women and youth among them,** to undertake ~~initiatives community mapping and monitoring~~ related to conservation, restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments, **including community mapping and monitoring.**

- **Section X, Subsection F, Paragraph 57**

57. Legal support should ~~enhance awareness contribute in securing and exercising~~ **collective land rights and assist** indigenous peoples and local communities **rights related to a within** conservation, restoration, national spatial planning, ~~and~~ environmental **impact assessment, and** governance frameworks.

We would like to ask Parties for support.

Thank you.

The CBD Women's Caucus (CBD WC) is the women's constituency within the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). It stands as a self-organised global platform, supporting women and girls worldwide to advocate for their rights within biodiversity related decision-making processes across all levels.

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