



# Biodiversity benefits of traditional knowledge and the customary use of land: a global assessment of CBD national reports

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CBD Informal Advisory Group on Technical and Scientific Cooperation



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Article 8 (j) <https://www.cbd.int/traditional>  
 Traditional knowledge information portal <https://www.cbd.int/tk>

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

2000

**Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on the  
 New Programme of Work and  
 Institutional Arrangements on Article 8(j)  
 and Other Provisions of the Convention  
 Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local  
 Communities**



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**...

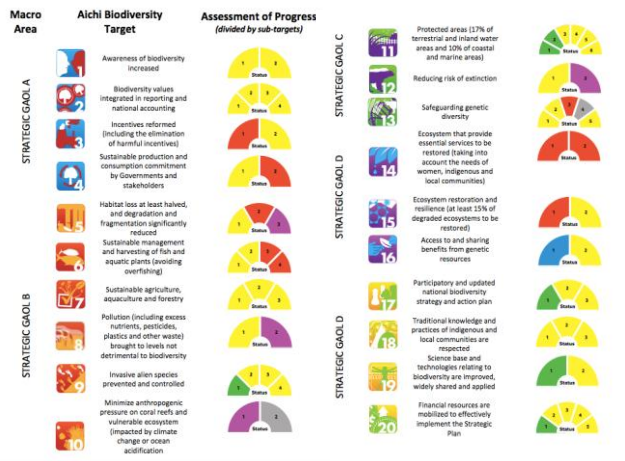
### **Art 18 – technical and scientific cooperation**

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



Aichi Biodiversity Targets

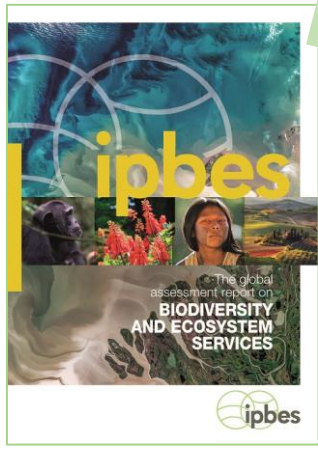


By 2020, **traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as their **customary sustainable use**, are **respected**, subject to the provisions of national legislation and applicable 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



2019



2022

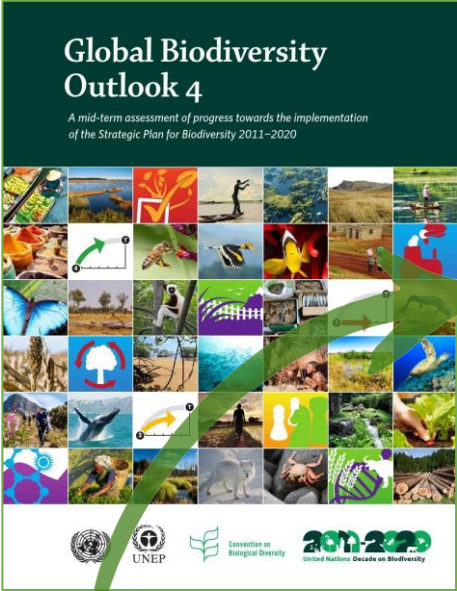
Staying Alive.



THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN  
For Life on Earth

Kunming-Montreal  
Global Biodiversity Framework





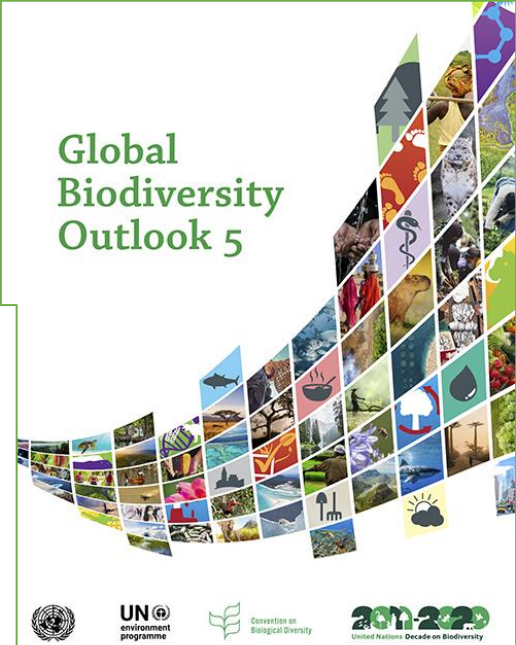
2016



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



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 Excellence on Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, and the Network of the Convention on Biological Diversity

2014



2010 GBO2

2006 GBO2

2001 GBO1

1993

Our aim was to see **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

← → ↺

🔒 www.cbd.int/reports

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BIODIVERSITY CONVENTION CARTAGENA PROTOCOL NAGOYA PROTOCOL COUNTRIES PROGRAMMES



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ONLINE REPORTING TOOL

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› Find National Targets

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› NBSAPs

› Syntheses and Reporting Mechanism

› Harmonization of Biodiversity-related Reporting

GUIDANCE AND TOOLS

› Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

› Decisions

› Analyze national reports

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



151 NR1 Received

137 NR2 Received

153 NR3 Received

179 NR4 Received

192 NR5 Received

103 NR6 Received (online)

196 CBD Parties

198 Countries



196 potential reports = 195 UN states + EU = 196 CBD parties

UN languages – EN, FR, ES, PT, AR, RU

Dataset 1: NR5(4) – all 196 reports analysed (195 countries + EU)

Dataset 2: NR6 – 190 reports analysed (189 countries + EU)

6 Parties did not submit NR6: Bahamas, Grenada, Lithuania, Oman, Romania, Syria



**Full content analysis** of 386 reports

Texts searched for – Aichi Target 13 and 18

– information on IP&LC, TK, practices if biodiversity context relevant, using keywords

*tradition\*, practice, use, manag\*, custom, medic\*, cultiv\*, herb\*, breed, seed, variet\*, cultiv\*, livestock, landrace*



Each country received an assessment number (code) – 0-5

We focused only on the initiatives and results, not on the (politically) formulated objectives.

Cases when IP&LC were *(completely) dependent on..., sensitized, assisted, guided, awareness raised...* marked 0





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**

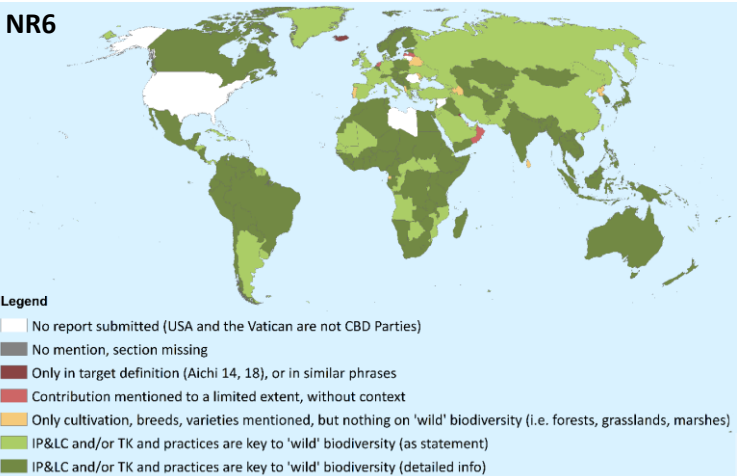
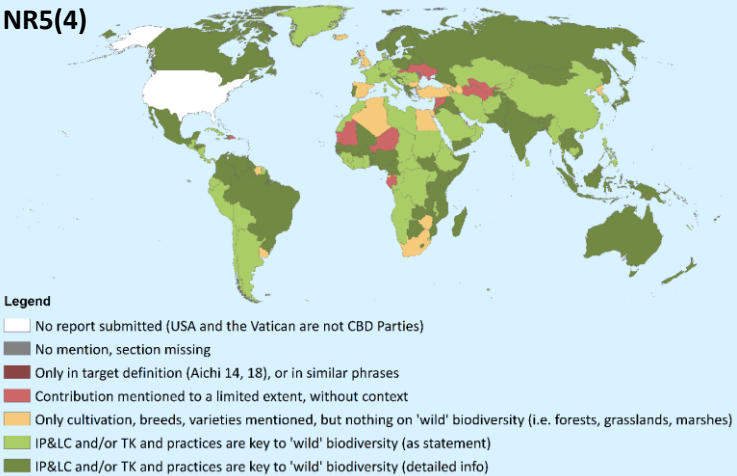
–	the Party <b>did not submit</b> the report (6 Parties for NR6) or is not a CBD Party (for USA and Vatican only)
0	<b>no mention</b> : section on Aichi Target 18 missing, IP&LC and TK not mentioned in other sections either
1	terms mentioned <b>only when quoting</b> the definition of the Aichi Targets or similar phrases

Levels of recognition of the contribution to biodiversity in general, in line with Aichi Target 18 (AT18) – traditional knowledge respected

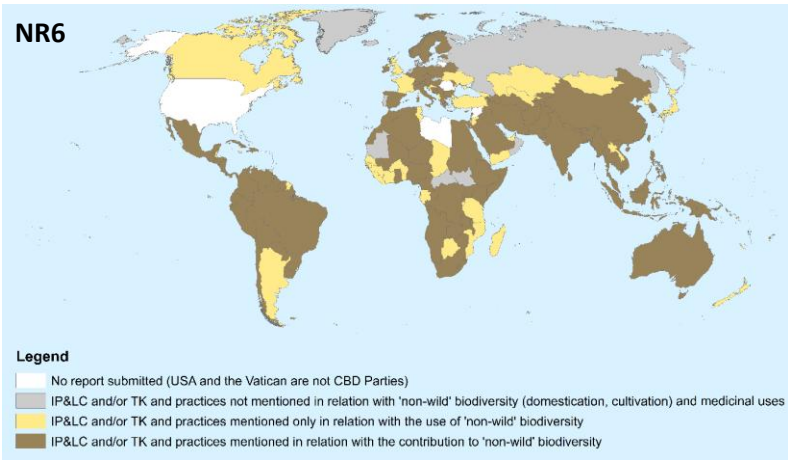
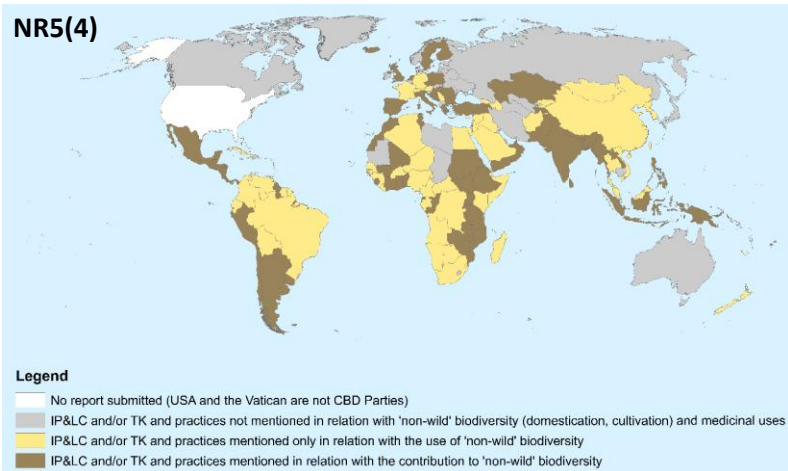
2	contribution <b>mentioned to a limited extent</b> , without national context or clear examples
3	contribution mentioned in relation to crop varieties, livestock breeds, cultivation or medicinal plants, but there is <b>nothing about 'wild' nature</b>
4	<b>explicitly stating that they are beneficial</b> for 'wild' biodiversity, including semi-natural habitats, but without developing or arguing the idea further
5	<b>it is argued how they are beneficial</b> , in which habitats, through what kind of management, practices, what is the mechanism of these processes – rules, taboos, sacred site etc. <i>Many communities in Vanuatu establish small-scale permanent marine conservation areas or periodically opened “taboo” or conservation areas over their marine areas.” (Vanuatu, NR5).</i>

Levels of recognition of the contribution to 'non-wild' biodiversity, in line with Aichi Target 13 (AT13) – genetic diversity maintained

1	<b>not mentioned</b> , even in relation to uses of 'non-wild' biodiversity, incl. medicinal uses. Often, local breeds and varieties are mentioned, but nothing about the IP&LC, the farmers, the people who maintain these
2	mentioned <b>only in relation to uses</b> of 'non-wild' biodiversity, incl. medicinal uses. <i>“46 species of medicinal plants were reported to be used in traditional pharmacopoeia. The collection and use for plant medicine is profoundly rooted within rural communities in the country.” (Guinea-Bissau, NR5)</i>
3	<b>explicit mention of contribution</b> to ‘non-wild’ biodiversity (i.e domestication, seed collection) <i>“Traditional owners also shared knowledge on the traditional management and collection of wild rice and sorghum within the National Park. This led to interesting discussions and reconsideration of how collections of some species are made. This knowledge will help to make better quality collections in the future, which ultimately ensures the future conservation of plant species at risk.” “Traditional and/or local knowledge, and the known traditional uses of stored germplasm...” (Australia, NR6).</i>



‘non-wild’ biodiversity (i.e. cultivation, breeds, varieties)



**NR5**  
33 Parties scored maximum  
13 Parties scored minimum  
for both 'wild' and 'non-wild'

**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).

How is the contribution to the conservation of biological diversity reported		NR5(4)			NR6		
		195 country (Party) reports analysed			189 country (Party) reports analysed		
		No of Parties	Parties %	Terrestrial area %	No of Parties	Parties %	Terrestrial area %
–	No report	0	0.0 %	7.3 %	6	3.1 %	8.8 %
0	No AT18, no mention	4	2.1 %	0.1 %	0	0.0 %	0.0 %
1	Only in AT18 definition and similar phrases	8	4.1 %	0.0 %	6	3.1 %	0.1 %

Levels of recognition of the contribution to biodiversity in general, in line with Aichi Target 18 (AT18) – traditional knowledge respected

2	Mentioned with no content	18	9.2 %	3.1 %	6	3.1 %	0.3 %
3	Only in 'agricultural' context	21	10.8 %	5.2 %	14	7.2 %	0.6 %
4	Contribution to 'wild' biodiversity – <i>statement</i>	71	36.4 %	30.7 %	53	27.2 %	38.4 %
5	Contribution to 'wild' biodiversity – <i>detailed</i>	73	37.4 %	53.7 %	110	56.4 %	51.9 %

Levels of recognition of the contribution to 'non-wild' biodiversity, in line with Aichi Target 13 (AT13) – genetic diversity maintained

1	No relation mentioned	45	23.1 %	39.0 %	22	11.3 %	20.3 %
2	Relation mentioned refers to <i>use only</i>	71	36.4 %	30.4 %	52	26.7 %	21.8 %
3	Relation mentioned refers to <i>contribution</i>	79	40.5 %	23.3 %	115	59.0 %	49.1 %

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)

**Parties reporting that Aichi Target 18 (traditional knowledge respected) is not relevant, or indicating how it is still relevant in their case** – mainly from Europe

16 Parties (NR5) vs 24 Parties (NR6)

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

*“in the UK, it is **not a focus for government action**”*

*“the **topic of traditional communities is not relevant** for the Czech Republic (...) TK into biodiversity conservation is thus not covered”*

### **Consistency in the recognition of IP&LC and TK contribution to biodiversity in the reports**

**NR5:** 163 Parties showed proof of recognition (best three scores) – 70 have done this in their response for AT18, while there were 23 Parties that did not include a section on AT18

**NR6:** 177 Parties – only 128 have done this in their response for AT18 or in the dedicated Section VI.

**NR5:** 43 Parties mentioned the role of IP&LC and TK for genetic diversity in their NR5 response for AT13, while 105 did so only in other sections of the report

**NR6:** the figures were similar, 52 and 115 Parties, respectively

## 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).

## 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.

Cases when the dedicated chapter providing information on the preparation of NR6 missing entirely from the CHM versions.



### Proofs of IP&LC and TK recognition 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

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.



Ibolya Sáfián (Hungary)

### Contributions not recognised due to confusion over terminology

**misinterpretation** of Article 8(j)

*“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



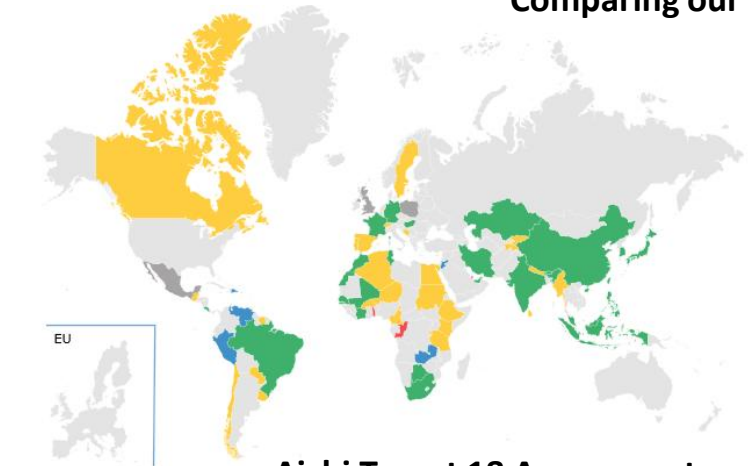
**inconsideration** of many TK holders (= injustice, undermine their work, triggers further **biodiversity loss**)

### Involvement of IP&LC representatives 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

Global Biodiversity Outlook 5: only 40 Parties reported that IP&LC were involved in the review processes of their NBSAPs

Comparing our in-depth content analysis with the results of the official CBD reporting



more profound body of information and argumentation in the full report contents

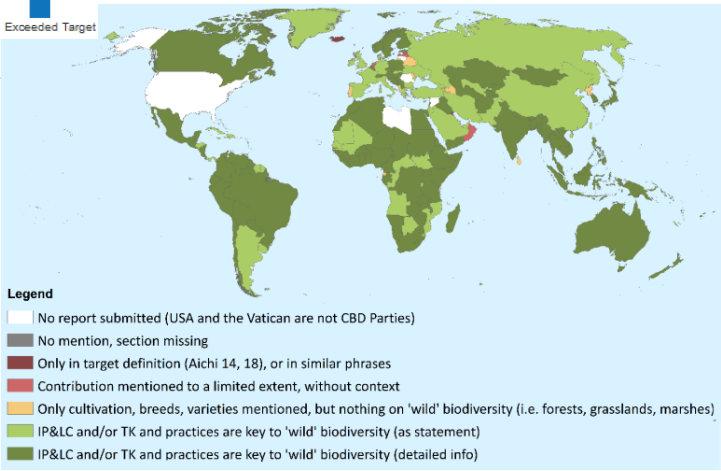


analyses are based on Parties' self-assessments  
source of bias and loss of information

Aichi Target 18 Assessments

- Not Reported
- Unknown
- Moving Away
- No Progress
- Insufficient Rate
- Meet Target
- Exceeded Target

<https://chm.cbd.int/search/reporting-map>



peer review system piloted by the  
COP16 decision on planning,  
monitoring reporting and review

## Conclusions and recommendations for NR7

- Parties must **reconsider 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



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

- Parties must strive for a **more comprehensive representation** of IP&LC and other TK holders – **ways of engagement presented**
- Parties need to **learn from** the reports submitted by **other Parties**
- Parties must strive to make the **information provided in their reports understandable and useful** – i.e. use of indigenous terms without defining them
- Parties should pay more attention to their responses in the **different sections** of the report

**ultimate aim is to integrate IP&LC and TK holder views into all sections. Therefore, the true measure in the future should not be how the specific chapter is discussed, but how it is embedded in all other chapters**

- encourage the engagement of all TK holders in the planning, review, monitoring and reporting by Parties
- designate national focal points (**NFPs**) for Article 8(j)
- CBD Secretariat should select exemplary answers or sections and compile them into a **model report**
- CBD Secretariat be reinforced so that it can allocate greater effort to **analysing and interpreting** all reports submitted

# Thank you for your attention!

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