



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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Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

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Convention on
Biological Diversity

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**...

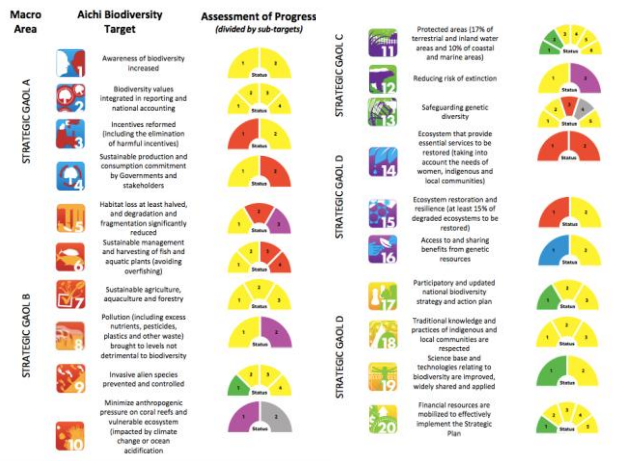
Art 18 – technical and scientific cooperation

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

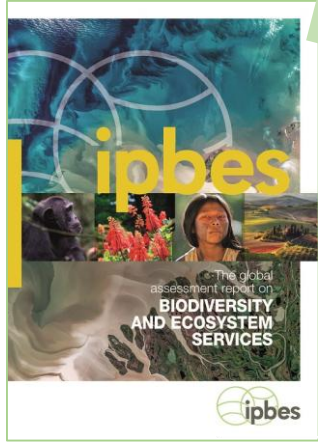


By 2020, **traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities** relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, as well as their **customary sustainable use**, are **respected**, subject to the provisions of national legislation and applicable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



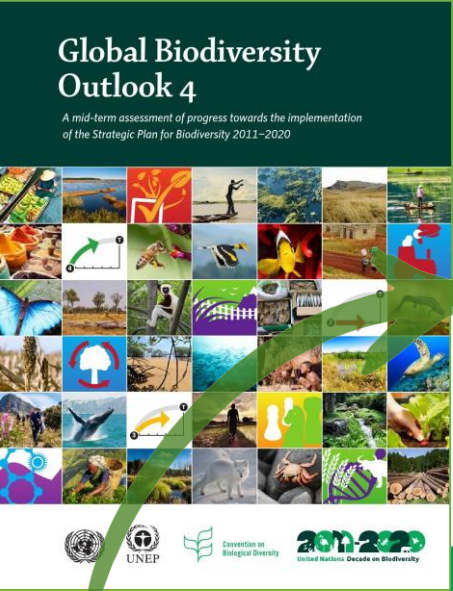
2022

Staying Alive.

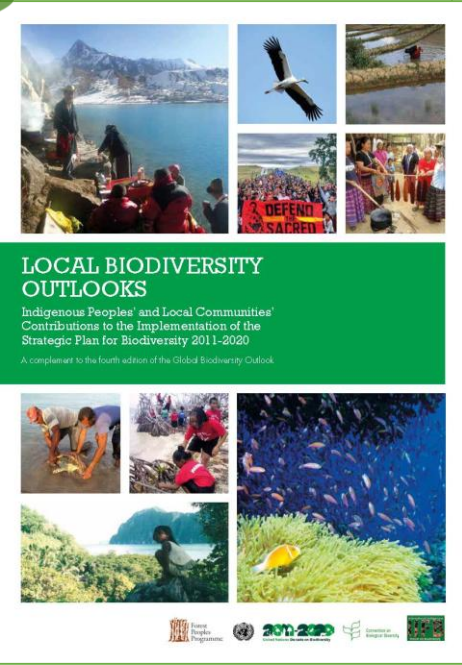


THE BIODIVERSITY PLAN
For Life on Earth

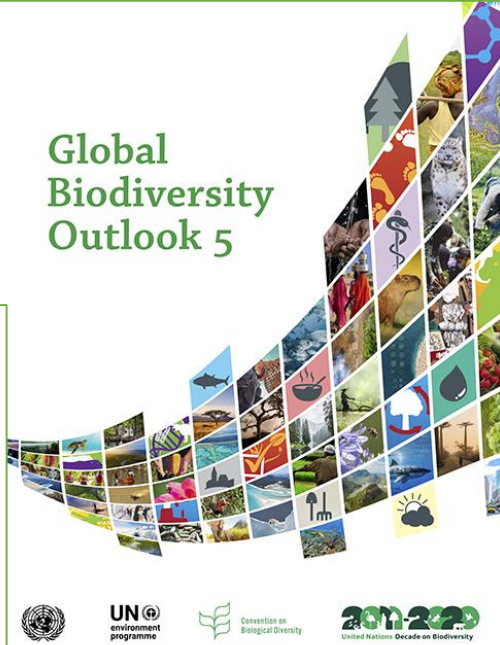
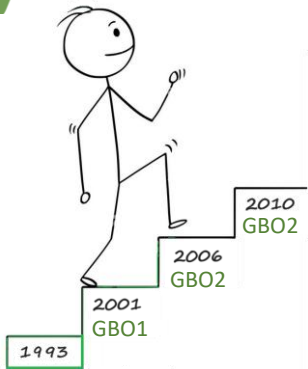
Kunming-Montreal
Global Biodiversity Framework



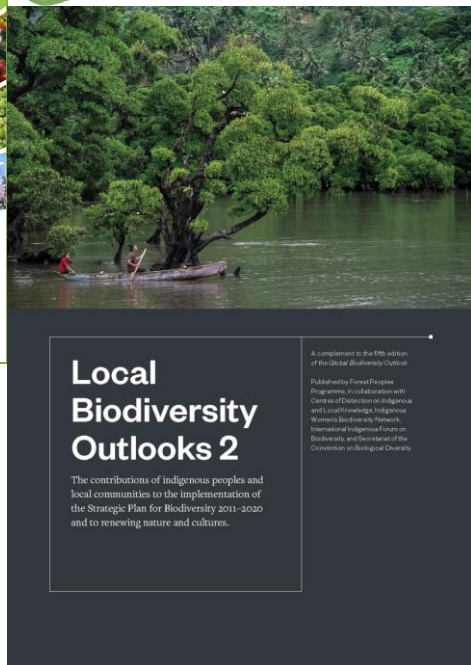
2016



2014



2020



Aim: assess **how CBD Parties self-report on 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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▸ Syntheses and Reporting Mechanism

▸ Harmonization of Biodiversity-related Reporting

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▸ Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

▸ Decisions

▸ Analyze national reports

NATIONAL REPORTS

National Reports

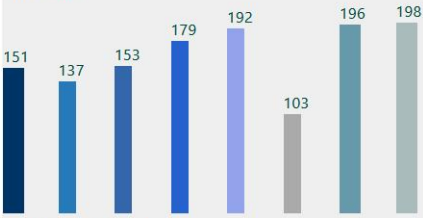
What's New?

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



1.

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



2.

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*



3.

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

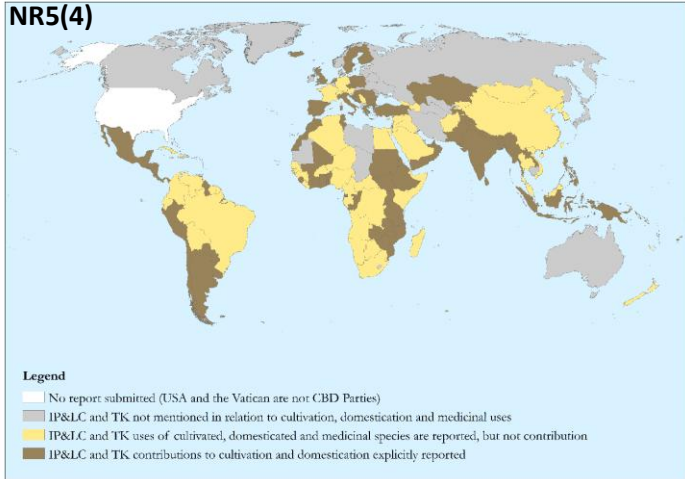
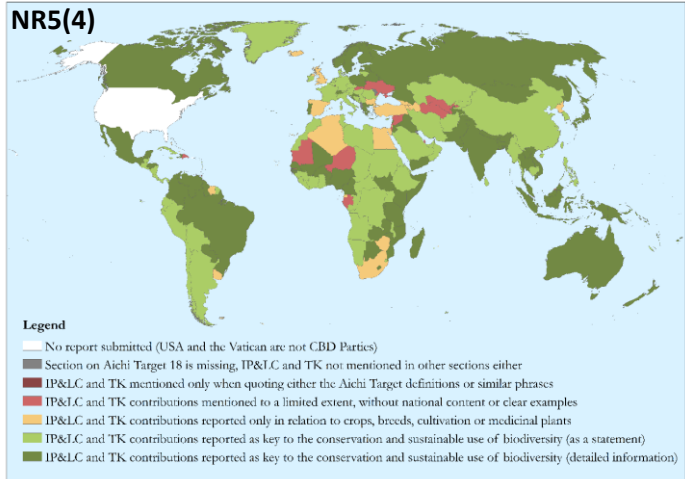


Aichi Target 18: By 2020, the *traditional knowledge*...



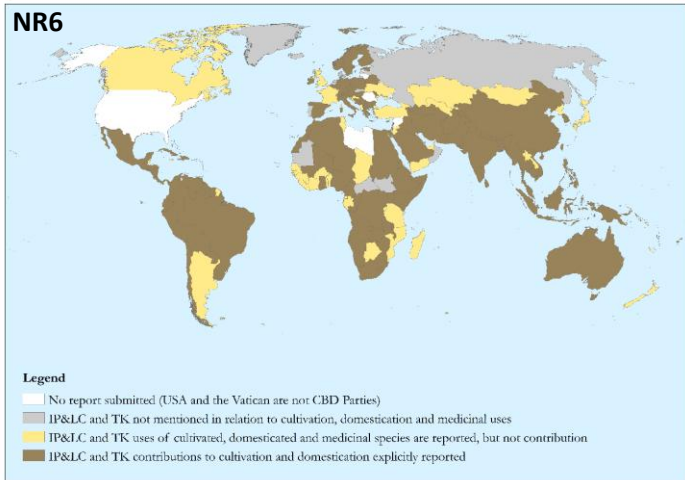
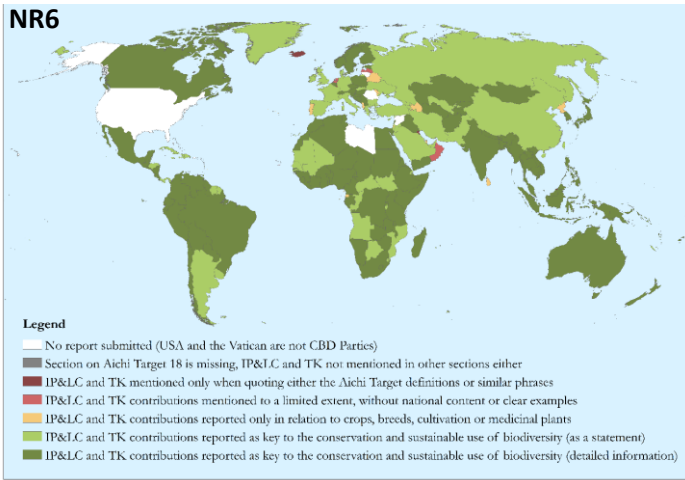
Aichi Target 13: By 2020, the genetic diversity of *cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals* and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as *culturally valuable species*

-	the Party did not submit the report (6 Parties for NR6) or is not a CBD Party (for USA and Vatican only)
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 how Parties self-reported on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with Aichi Target 18 (AT18)– 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 stating that IP&LC contributions and TK are beneficial for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, including semi-natural habitats, forests, coastal waters etc., but without developing or arguing the idea further
5	it is argued how IP&LC contributions and TK are beneficial, in which habitats, through what kind of management, practices, what is the mechanism of these processes– community protected areas, rules, taboos, sacred site etc.
Levels of how Parties self-reported on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to cultivation and domestication, in line with Aichi Target 13 (AT13)– 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)



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).

How is the contribution to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity self-reported		NR5(4) 195 reports analyzed		NR6 189 reports analyzed	
		No of Parties	Parties %	No of Parties	Parties %
–	No report	0	0.0 %	6	3.1 %
0	No AT18, no mention	4	2.1 %	0	0.0 %
1	Only in AT definition or similar phrases	8	4.1 %	6	3.1 %
Levels of how Parties self-reported on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, in line with Aichi Target 18 (AT18)– traditional knowledge respected					
2	Mentioned with no content	18	9.2 %	6	3.1 %
3	Only in the context of crops, breeds, etc.	21	10.8 %	14	7.2 %
4	Contribution to biodiversity–statement	71	36.4 %	53	27.2 %
5	Contribution to biodiversity – detailed	73	37.4 %	110	56.4 %
Levels of how Parties self-reported on the contribution of IP&LC and TK to cultivation and domestication, in line with Aichi Target 13 (AT13)– genetic diversity maintained					
0	No relation mentioned	45	23.1 %	22	11.3 %
1	Relation mentioned refers to use only	71	36.4 %	52	26.7 %
2	Relation mentioned refers to contribution	79	40.5 %	115	59.0 %

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”*

Inconsistency in the presentation of IP&LC and TK contribution to biodiversity in the reports

NR5: 163 Parties provided examples of IP&LC contributions – 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.

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

The increase in mentions could be partly attributed to 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



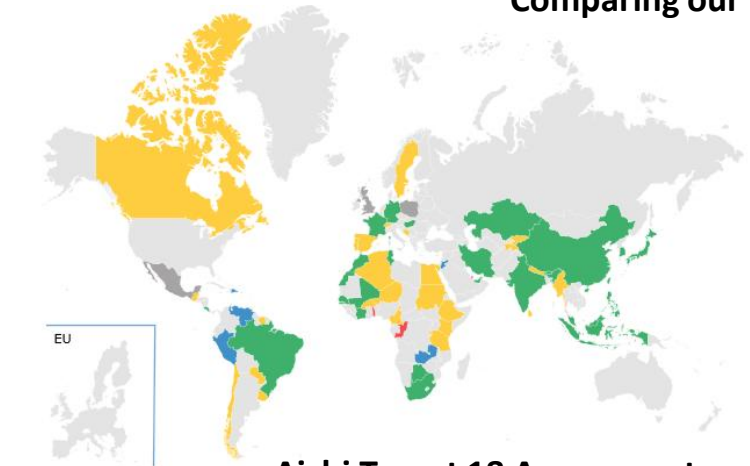
inconsideration of many TK holders (= injustice, undermine their work, triggers further **biodiversity loss**)

Involvement of IP&LC representatives in national reporting

NGOs or other civil society representatives were much more likely to be included in the reporting process than IP&LC representatives, 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



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

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

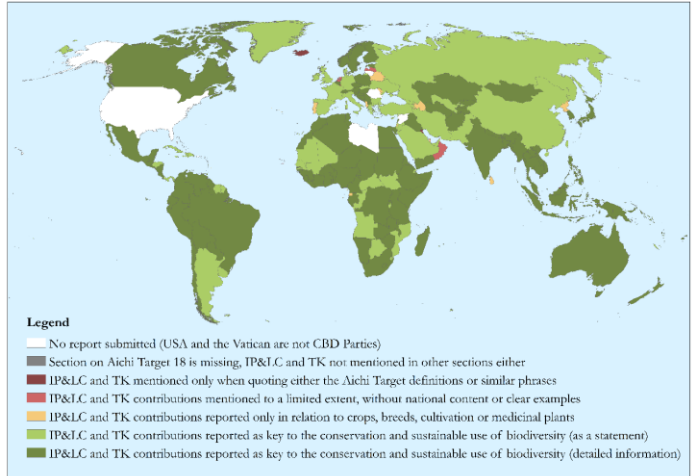


more profound body of information and argumentation in the full report contents



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

Aichi Target 18 Assessments



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

Conclusions and recommendations for NR7

- 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



**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

Thank you for your attention!

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