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IIFB Statement on SBSTTA Strategic Goal D

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Brief Statement

Indigenous peoples and local communities generally look upon the services of ecosystem as the gifts of Mother Earth. We have obligations to look after Mother Earth's well-being. If we perform these obligations well, Mother Earth in turn provides for us. Our ancestors taught us that all elements necessary for life and that this reciprocity is fundamental to how we manage our lands and cultural heritage. All elements, such as water, foods, fibre, and materials provided by our Mother Earth are spiritual elements. We believe that all actions to address ecosystem services, including our cultural ecosystem services, should be approached in a holistic way.

We are not passive recipients of ecosystem services, but remind parties that we are active participants in generating them through our activities, such as biocultural landscapes, waterscapes, cultural soils and traditional burning.

Recommendations:

Aichi 14

1. Research, monitoring, evaluations, indicators, methodologies, tools and other measures to implement Aichi Target 14 should take into account cultural ecosystem services, including intangible cultural services, recognizing the contribution of ecosystems to our identity and human dignity. Approaches should acknowledge both the contribution of ecosystems to cultural values, innovations and practices, and the contribution of these to the generation, maintenance and provision of ecosystem services. This can be accomplished through the Community-based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) and other relevant approaches.

2. Measures to implement ecosystem services approaches must fully evaluate the benefits, risks and opportunities of these approaches and ensure that the needs of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable are fully met. Measures must also ensure that benefits are fully and equitably shared. Indicators should be developed for cultural ecosystem services, poverty and women. Measures must develop and implement non-market approaches, and must not adversely affect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices that underpin the conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services and biodiversity.

3. Measures should take into account the role of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women, in the restoration of ecosystems and ecosystem services. Measures should emphasize the importance net gain approaches over no net loss, and recognize the value of traditional knowledge in developing baselines and targets for restoration. Measures should fully incorporate the restoration practices of indigenous peoples and local communities, including indigenous forestry.

Aichi 15

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1. Measures to achieve Aichi Target 15 must incorporate an integrated ecosystem-based approach to mitigation and adaptation, and recognize the contribution of our knowledge, innovations and practices.
2. Ecosystem services for carbon sequestration should be evaluated in the context of the whole range of values, including trends in spiritual and physical well-being and the needs of women, the poor and the vulnerable, in order to ensure that we can meet our cultural needs
3. Carbon sequestration and REDD+ schemes must also ensure that IPLCs are protected from negative spillovers, externalities and harms that can come from adjacent areas and mitigation approaches. For example, carbon forestry has the potential to degrade biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services, and impacts from large concessions can flow upon our lands.

Aichi Target 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

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Targets, tools and indicators for implementing Aichi Target 14 must be implemented in a holistic way to meet the needs fully meet the needs of women, indigenous peoples and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. The Secretariat summary of submissions contains a number of valuable approaches to ecosystem services, but significant gaps remain for achieving the target.

There are multiple types of ecosystem services, and the provided approaches have a bias towards economic values and material and biophysical outcomes. As IPLCs, we have obligations to look after Mother Earth's well-being, and Mother Earth in turn provides for us. Our ancestors taught us that all elements necessary for life, and this reciprocity is fundamental to how we manage our lands and cultural heritage.

The document makes no direct reference to the cultural services of ecosystems, or to the intangible values of cultural ecosystem services. Cultural ecosystem services are generally conceptualized as the services provided by ecosystems to culture. Cultural ecosystem services may also be thought of as services generated by the cultural management of ecosystems. Examples include ecosystem services

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems, thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

The report mentions the need to understand more fully role of multiple ecosystem types for carbon sequestration, particularly forests, peatlands, and freshwater and coastal wetlands. The report also notes the importance of understanding trade-offs related to alternative land uses and land tenure systems. IPLCs, often living in or around biodiversity hotspots, are custodians of significant amounts of "biocultural carbon stocks" that result from our land use practices. Special attention needs to be paid to the development of measures that recognizes the value of indigenous forestry for avoiding deforestation and the recovery of forests, as well as for other land management practices such as in traditional farming systems.

Approaches tend to be "carbon centric," focusing on the carbon value of ecosystems. There needs to be more guidance on multifunctional assessments, emphasizing co-benefits and synergies and trade-offs between carbon, ecosystem services (including cultural ecosystem services), biodiversity, and livelihoods. The guidance must fully respect our carbon governance. Ecosystem services for carbon sequestration should be evaluated in the context of the whole range of values and as bundles of outcomes that ensure that we can meet our cultural needs, including trends in spiritual and physical well-being and the needs of women, the poor and the vulnerable.

Carbon sequestration and REDD+ schemes must also ensure that IPLCs are protected from negative spillovers, externalities and harms that can come from adjacent areas. For example, carbon forestry has the potential to degrade biodiversity, ecosystems and ecosystem services, and impacts from large concessions can flow upon our lands. Indicators for other sources of carbon emissions also need to be accounted for, such as deforestation related to mining.

Some impacts are direct, such as erosion and the transport of contaminants. Others are indirect, such as interfering with gene flow or dispersal that weakens the health of the species on which we depend. It can also reduce the area available for sustainable agriculture and agroforestry which also provide carbon sequestration benefits and on which we depend upon for food security, food diversity and food sovereignty.

Recent reports and publications from the Potsdam Institute indicate that 20% of the world's ecosystems will be highly impacted by the year 2100 if we are able to hold climate change to 2°C. Warming to 5°C in one study is projected to put over 80% of all terrestrial ecosystems at risk of severe transformation. The windows of opportunity for ecosystem-based adaptation appear to be closing, and this puts our ways of life, and associated biocultural diversity, at high risk.

generated by biocultural landscapes, cultural soils (terra preta del indio, dark earth soils of the Amazon), aboriginal burning and traditional waterworks. For us, these are existential ecosystem services, essential to our identities, human dignity, and ways of being.

The ecosystem services generated by cultural activities is likely to become highly important in future landscapes shaped by climate change and urbanization, where no-analogue and novel ecosystems will become more common. In the future, the maintenance of ecosystem services in cultural, production, working, agricultural, matrix and mosaic landscapes will be essential.

Accomplishing the target will therefore require more data and indicators on the creation, maintenance and innovation of cultural practices and values relevant to the provision, conservation and sustainable use of ecosystem services. Community-based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) are one approach for ensuring that IPLCs can develop culturally appropriate and relevant indicators for cultural ecosystem services.

The output bias is also reflected in research on ecosystem services. An Information documents prepared for Strategic Goal D (UNEP/CBD/SBSTTA/17/INF/1) points to the need to address the behavioral, social and socio-economic root causes of impacts on ecosystem services and for the generation of pro-environmental behaviors that lead to positive outcomes. We protect Mother Earth because it is our duty, and we are concerned that payments for ecosystem services and market-based approaches may in the long-run undermine or crowd out values and motivations that underpin our cosmivision. We need to know more on long-term trade-offs and impacts, and safeguards to ensure that our values and practices are recognized and respected.

There is no reference to restoration done by IPLCs and policies for restoration. Many existing tools are based on inadequate baselines that do not reflect historical conditions for IPLCs, and many countries have adopted a no net loss approach. No net loss approaches are inadequate to effectively deal with the increasing flow of impacts onto our lands and waters, nor to sustain our cultures. A net gain, or ecosystem services restoration approach will be needed, with specific tools to recognize IPLC restoration practices.

The approach developed under this target must be just for all - and explicitly include elements for women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable. They must include our spiritual and physical well-being, as well as tangible and intangible values.

Aichi Target 15