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WORKING GROUP ON ARTICLE 8(j) AND  
RELATED PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION  
ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

Eleventh meeting

Montreal, Canada, 20-22 November 2019

Item 3 of the provisional agenda\*

### **PROGRESS TOWARDS AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 18 ON TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE AND CUSTOMARY SUSTAINABLE USE OF BIODIVERSITY**

*Note by the Executive Secretary*

#### **INTRODUCTION**

1. On the subject of progress in the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Conference of the Parties, in decision [14/1](#), urged Parties to take urgent action by 2020, by carrying out, among other things, the following actions, as appropriate, on Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 on traditional knowledge:

(a) Increase efforts in the protection of and respect for traditional knowledge;

(b) Make use of information contained in the *Local Biodiversity Outlooks*, among other things, on the customary sustainable use by indigenous peoples and local communities, to contribute to updated reporting on progress in the implementation of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets.

2. Subsequently, and as requested in decisions [14/17](#), paragraph 5, Parties and other Governments were invited by the Executive Secretary<sup>1</sup> to report on the implementation of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and related provisions, in particular tasks 1, 2 and 4 and the implementation of the Plan of Action on Customary Sustainable Use,<sup>2</sup> as well as the application of the guidelines and standards adopted by the Conference of the Parties, and the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention, in order to determine the progress made and inform the development of the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

3. To assist the Working Group in its task, the Executive Secretary has issued the present interim report, which is based on information received in response to the notification mentioned above. The analysis includes 96 national reports received by 30 June 2019. Section I contains information on progress made by Parties towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 as reported in sixth national reports and by Parties and other relevant organizations in submissions received in response to the Executive Secretary's notification on views on progress in implementation of Article 8(j). Section II covers progress in the mainstreaming of Article 8(j) and related provisions across the areas of work of the

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\* [CBD/WG8J/11/1](#).

<sup>1</sup> See notification 2019-004, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2019/ntf-2019-004-8j-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Decision [XII/12](#) B, annex.

Convention. Section III provides information on the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention. Section IV considers the strengthening of the work on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions through ongoing capacity-building efforts, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities. Finally, section V contains a conclusion. The compilation of views on progress in the implementation of Article 8(j) is contained in information document CBD/WG8J/11/INF/3.

4. The present report will be updated on the basis of further information received, for consideration by the Subsidiary Body on Implementation at its third meeting.

#### **I. PROGRESS MADE BY PARTIES TOWARDS AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET 18 OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020**

5. This section provides an overview of the progress made by Parties towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the [Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020](#) based on an analysis of the 96 sixth national reports received by 30 June 2019 and the submissions compiled in [CBD/WG8J/11/INF/3](#). Of the 96 national reports analysed, 91 Parties included information about indigenous peoples and local communities.

6. Target 18 establishes the following:

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

7. In addition, there are some other Targets related to indigenous peoples and local communities, such as Target 14.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, all other targets can be relevant to indigenous peoples and local communities.

##### **A. Progress as reported in the sixth national reports**

8. Parties to the Convention reported their actions to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 in their sixth national reports. Some also reported the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the achievement of other targets. The complete compilation of progress on Article 8(j) and related provisions, as reported by each of the 96 Parties that submitted their sixth national report to the Executive Secretary by 30 June 2019, can be found in CBD/WG8J/11/INF/4.

9. Some main actions reported by several Parties included the following:

(a) Implementation of capacity-building workshops and trainings on traditional knowledge and customary sustainable use under the Convention;

(b) Initiatives to establish co-management of protected areas with indigenous peoples and local communities living in and around them;

(c) Establishment of Indigenous Community Conservation Areas (ICCA), Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) and elaboration of corresponding co-management plans;

(d) Actions to involve indigenous peoples and local communities in resources management and conservation;

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<sup>3</sup> 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.

- (e) Documentation and development of inventories on traditional knowledge and related resources;
- (f) Development of traditional medicine and pharmacopeia action plans;
- (g) Commercialization of edible wild produce;
- (h) Introduction of general mechanisms for consultations with indigenous peoples;
- (i) Incorporation of traditional knowledge in consultation processes, including by giving indigenous leaders specific mandates;
- (j) Development of draft policies on traditional knowledge;
- (k) Elaboration of national legislative and political frameworks for equitable access to genetic resources and sharing of benefits resulting from its use;
- (l) Guidelines for establishing community protocols.

10. All of these actions demonstrate a measurable increase in information related to the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in the sixth national report compared to the previous national reports. In analysing the fifth national reports (2014) the Secretariat had previously reported that 27 per cent of national reports included information about the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. Based on an analysis of the 96 sixth national reports reviewed up to 30 June, 90 per cent (82 national reports) included references to the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. This represents a threefold increase in reporting on the collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities through the national reports.

## **B. Progress as reported through submissions received**

### *1. Mexico*

11. In its submission, Mexico mentions that it has made some efforts with respect to traditional knowledge, such as an initiative for a draft decree issuing the Law of Safeguarding Knowledge, Culture and Identity of Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples and Communities or the Platform for Registration of Cultural Heritage and Market, promoted by the National Institute of Anthropology and History. However, results have not yet emerged for observations to be concluded.

12. Mexico highlights the creation of the [National Institute of Indigenous Peoples \(INPI\)](#), which constitutes an essential step for the design and implementation of Mexican State public policies, based on respect and recognition of the rights of indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples and communities, in a framework of cooperation and recognition as subjects of public law.

13. Mexico also underlines its National Program for Indigenous Peoples 2018-2024, which has as one of its specific objectives “strengthening and revitalizing cultures, languages, values, knowledge and other elements that constitute its cultural and biocultural heritage”.

14. Regarding the restoration and sharing of traditional knowledge, Mexico highlights the numerous initiatives of indigenous communities themselves that represent successful experiences in terms of territorial organization, conservation, and sustainable management of natural resources. On the basis of these experiences, different pilot programmes have been developed at the local, regional and national levels.

15. Other initiatives have been implemented by community organizations or civil associations in coordination with indigenous peoples and local communities through their assemblies. Collaboratively, they have developed a community normative instrument referred to as the Communal Statute for the care and protection of their tangible and intangible natural and cultural resources. Another effort parallel to those mentioned here is one that has been undertaken by the [National Institute of Anthropology and History](#) through the creation of a cultural heritage and market registration platform for the protection of communal intellectual property.

16. To face the challenges regarding the protection, transition and recovery of traditional knowledge, Mexico emphasizes the importance of reorienting the Mexican legal system, in its federal, state and community spheres, so that they can guarantee, in a coordinated way and with the full support of the Mexican State, a real and effective protection to these resources.

## 2. Niger

17. In its submission, Niger introduced elements of a programme of work for 2019-2025 which include legal and institutional developments, the promotion of equity and fairness in negotiations, such as training to negotiate mutually agreed terms, as well as the implementation of special measures to increase the capacity of relevant indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to genetic resources, with an emphasis on women.

## 3. Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)

18. In its submission, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela emphasizes its National Strategy for the Conservation of Biological Diversity 2010-2020 and its National Action Plan. The strategy includes a series of actions related to Article 8(j) and related provisions, among which the following are of particular note. The first one is a guarantee for indigenous peoples' consent for access to genetic resources on their territory, through control permits issued by the Ministry of People's Power for Eco-socialism, supported by a legal framework that regulates access to genetic resources and their intangible components. The second action is the maintenance and systematization of ancestral and traditional knowledge about biological diversity for and with the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, followed by (the third action) the support of community networks for the acquisition, management and exchange of seeds between peasants/local communities and indigenous peoples. The fourth action is to promote traditional and ancestral practices of sustainable use of biological diversity. Finally, the fifth action of note is the support for indigenous agriculture, and other forms of traditional sustainable use of biological diversity. All these activities contribute to the implementation of the tasks established in the Convention's Plan of Action on the Customary Sustainable Use of Biological Diversity (decision [XII/12](#), annex).

## 4. International Whaling Commission

19. In its submission, the International Whaling Commission indicates that its mandate includes the determination of quotas for aboriginal subsistence whaling (ASW) in Greenland, the Russian Federation, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the United States of America. It emphasizes that it marked two important milestones regarding this part of its mandate. The Commission's Scientific Committee has completed the necessary research to ensure that ASW catch limits will not harm the targeted stocks, and the Schedule to the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling<sup>4</sup> was amended at the sixty-seventh meeting of the Commission (IWC67), held in Florianopolis, Brazil, in 2018, to establish catch/strike limits for ASW for the years 2019 to 2025.

## 5. Sami Parliament of Sweden

20. In its submission, the [Sami Parliament of Sweden](#) draws attention to four points of progress with regard to tasks 1, 2 and 4 of the programme of work:

(a) Amendments have been made to the Environmental Code concerning environmental impact assessments, including a definition of the term "cumulative effects" and other mandatory elements, including the consultation process;

(b) The Ordinance on National Parks now includes provisions making it mandatory to consult the Sami Parliament of Sweden when establishing national parks and when deciding rules and regulations for national parks that might restrict reindeer husbandry;

(c) New guidelines are being developed on how responsible government agencies and local governments should conduct consultations to ensure full and effective participation of affected Sami and Sami communities/organizations when establishing nature reserves;

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations, [Treaty Series, vol. 161](#), No. 2124.

(d) The Sami Parliament and affected Sami communities participated effectively in the process of establishing a new national park in the region of Jämtland and they had decision-making power over the continuity of the project. However, while recognizing the above-mentioned progress, the Sami Parliament is concerned that the proposed Act on Consultation on Matters of Relevance to the Sami still has not been adopted.

#### 6. *Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Nepal*

21. In its submission, the Society for Wetland Biodiversity Conservation Nepal mentions (a) the establishment of a network of indigenous peoples and local communities at the local and provincial levels; (b) their work for policies and a mechanism to address Article 8(j) and related provisions; (c) the establishment of different activities to promote the importance of Article 8(j) and related provisions; (d) the design of a non-formal educational programme on indigenous peoples and local communities; and (e) the articulation of Article 8(j) in the formal educational curriculum of the University of Indigenous Studies, Nepal.

### **II. PROGRESS IN THE MAINSTREAMING OF ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS ACROSS THE AREAS OF WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

22. This section contains information on areas of work in which significant progress has been made regarding recent decisions of relevance to indigenous peoples and local communities in the biennium 2018-19.

#### **A. Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to marine and coastal biodiversity**

23. During this period, capacity-building activities were organized under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative,<sup>5</sup> which is a global platform aimed at building partnerships and enhancing the capacity to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets most relevant to marine and coastal biodiversity. Activities focused on the management of marine and coastal ecosystems, which included elements related to traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples and local communities.

24. Activities carried out under the Sustainable Ocean Initiative continue to involve representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities. They include workshop sessions focused on incorporating the traditional ecological knowledge and sociocultural knowledge of coastal communities to support marine spatial planning and management.

#### **B. Biodiversity and climate change**

25. The Secretariat involved indigenous peoples and local communities in the work of the Convention related to biodiversity and climate change, in particular by supporting the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in a series of regional workshops on integrating climate change and biodiversity action at the national level.

26. In decision [XIII/4](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to prepare voluntary guidelines for the design and effective implementation of ecosystem-based approaches to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, ensuring that the voluntary guidelines included information on knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities related to addressing and responding to climate change and impacts on biodiversity. Pursuant to this request, the Secretariat prepared the voluntary consultation with experts from governments, academia, indigenous peoples and local communities, non-governmental organizations, and intergovernmental organizations. Representatives from indigenous peoples and local communities participated in a workshop on the review of the draft guidelines. The voluntary guidelines have been published in CBD Technical Series No. 93.<sup>6</sup> Consideration of indigenous peoples and local communities is an integral part of the principles and safeguards of the guidelines, and the report features a dedicated

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cbd.int/soi/>

<sup>6</sup> Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2019). *Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction and Supplementary Information*. Technical Series No. 93. Montreal, 156 pages. Available at: <https://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/cbd-ts-93-en.pdf>

section on integrating knowledge, technologies, practices and efforts of indigenous peoples and local communities in the context of ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction.

27. In decision [14/5](#), the Conference of the Parties requested the Executive Secretary to review new scientific and technical information, including by taking into account traditional knowledge, with respect, among other things, to the impacts of climate change on biodiversity and on communities that depend on ecosystem services and functions, particularly indigenous peoples and local communities, and to report on the implications of these findings for the work of the Convention. Accordingly, the report is being submitted to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice for consideration at its twenty-third meeting (see [CBD/SBSTTA/23/3](#)).

### **III. PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN THE WORK OF THE CONVENTION**

28. In the biennium 2017-2018, a total of 61 representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities received funding from the Voluntary Trust Fund, which enabled their participation in official meetings held under the Convention.<sup>7</sup> The Secretariat expresses its gratitude to Australia, Egypt, Finland, Germany, New Zealand, Norway, Sweden, and Mexico for their continuing support of the General Trust Fund for Voluntary Contributions to Facilitate the Participation of Indigenous and Local Communities in the Work of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

29. In addition, the Secretariat has facilitated the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the following expert meetings held under the Convention and its Protocols:

(a) Meetings of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Synthetic Biology, Montreal, Canada, 5-8 December 2017 and 4-7 June 2019;

(b) Regional consultations on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework for: (i) Latin America and the Caribbean, Montevideo, 14-17 May 2019; (ii) Central and Eastern Europe, Belgrade, 16-18 April 2019; (iii) Africa, Addis Ababa, 2-5 April 2019; (iv) Western European and Others Group and Other Members of the European Union, Bonn, 19-21 March 2019; (v) Asia and the Pacific, Nagoya, Japan, 28 January-1 February 2019;

(c) Technical Workshop to Review the Voluntary Guidelines for the Design and Effective Implementation of Ecosystem-based Approaches to Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction, Bonn, 20-22 November 2017;

(d) Second meeting of the Compliance Committee under the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing, Montreal, Canada, 24-26 April 2018;

(e) African Ministerial Summit on Biodiversity, Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, 13 November 2018;

(f) Meetings of the Informal Advisory Committee on Communication, Education and Public Awareness, Montreal, Canada, 11-13 October 2017 and 5-6 July 2018;

(g) Third meeting of the Informal Advisory Committee on Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Nagoya Protocol, Montreal, Canada, 20-22 March 2018;

(h) Meeting of the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Digital Sequence Information on Genetic Resources, Montreal, Canada, 13-16 February 2018;

(i) Technical Expert Workshop on Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, Montreal, Canada, 6-9 February 2018;

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<sup>7</sup> (a) Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions, tenth meeting, and Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, twenty-first meeting: 18 funded; (b) Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, twenty-second meeting, and Subsidiary Body on Implementation, second meeting: 10 funded; (c) Conference of the Parties, fourteenth meeting, ninth meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and third meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing: 33 funded.

(j) Expert Workshop on Marine Protected Areas and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures for Achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 in Marine and Coastal Areas, Montreal, Canada, 6-9 February 2018;

(k) Meeting of the informal advisory group on synergies among biodiversity-related conventions, Montreal, Canada, 17-18 December 2017;

(l) Expert Workshop on Invasive Alien Species in Preparation for the Twenty-second Meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, Montreal, Canada, 6-9 December 2017;

(m) International Expert Workshop on Mainstreaming Biodiversity in the Sectors of Energy and Mining, Infrastructure, and Manufacturing and Processing, Cairo, 20-22 June 2018.

30. The Secretariat continues to include on a regular basis the participation of representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities in workshops held under the Convention, including but not limited to the following:

(a) Regional Bio-Bridge Initiative round tables for: (i) Latin America and the Caribbean, Bogota, 27-29 November 2017; (ii) Africa, Entebbe, Uganda, 7-9 November 2017; (iii) Asia and the Pacific, Incheon, Republic of Korea, 16-19 October 2017; (iv) Central and Eastern Europe and the Central Asian republics, Minsk, 26-28 February 2018; (v) Western Europe and Others Group, Brussels, 21 September 2018;

(b) Regional Workshop to Facilitate the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas in the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, Baku, 24-29 April 2017;

(c) Expert Workshop to Develop Options for Modifying the Description of Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas for Describing New Areas, and for Strengthening the Scientific Credibility and Transparency of this Process, Berlin, 5-8 December 2017;

(d) Regional dialogues and learning missions on integrating climate change action and biodiversity action at the national level for: (i) South America, Bogota, 27 November-1 December 2017; (ii) Southern Africa, Durban, South Africa, 2-6 October 2017; (iii) West and Central Africa, Dakar, 18-22 June 2018;

(e) Capacity-building Workshop for the Mediterranean on the Restoration of Forests and Other Ecosystems to Support the Achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets Agadir, Morocco, 20-24 March 2017;

(f) Sustainable Ocean Initiative capacity-building workshops for: (i) the wider Caribbean and Central America, San José, Costa Rica, 20-24 February 2017; (ii) northern Africa and the Mediterranean, Tangier, Morocco, 15-19 October 2018;

(g) Regional Capacity-building Workshop on Biodiversity and Health for the ASEAN Region, Manila, 5-7 November 2018.

#### **IV. STRENGTHENING THE WORK ON ARTICLE 8(J) AND RELATED PROVISIONS THROUGH ONGOING CAPACITY-BUILDING EFFORTS, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

31. This section provides an overview of the implementation of the capacity development programme on national arrangements for achieving traditional knowledge elements of Targets 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, which included the holding of four regional workshops in preparation for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties and additional activities related to capacity-building with a focus on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and indigenous peoples and local communities.

##### **A. Training programme for indigenous peoples and local communities and Parties**

32. The capacity development programme for achieving traditional knowledge elements of Targets 18 and 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was implemented during the biennium 2017-2018

with the objective of assisting Parties in the achievement of Aichi Target 18 and contributing to Target 16 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 by raising awareness and developing capacity on how to use the “Mo’otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines”,<sup>8</sup> known as the “traditional knowledge voluntary guidelines” to develop national arrangements and mechanisms on traditional knowledge.

33. The programme has as objectives the following:

(a) To provide an opportunity for participants to share experience with national policy measures on traditional knowledge and related indigenous issues, including gaps and challenges;

(b) To share experiences in which indigenous peoples and local communities have established rights to grant access to genetic resources;

(c) To build the capacity to develop potential draft elements for national action plans to address traditional knowledge according to regional situations and unique national realities, considering the decisions emanating from the meetings of the Conference of the Parties and the Parties to the Protocols;

(d) To provide an opportunity for participants to discuss the post-2020 biodiversity framework;

(e) To prepare for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing.

34. The regional workshops were held pursuant to the following decisions of the Conference of the Parties related to capacity-building:

(a) Decision [XIII/18](#) on the “Mo’otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines for the development of mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives to ensure the “prior and informed consent”, “free, prior and informed consent” or “approval and involvement”, depending on national circumstances, of indigenous peoples and local communities for accessing their knowledge, innovations and practices, for fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of their knowledge, innovations and practices relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, and for reporting and preventing unlawful appropriation of traditional knowledge”;

(b) Decision [X/1](#) on the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, Target 18 of which calls for traditional knowledge to be respected and integrated across the work of the Convention at all relevant levels by 2020. Target 16 calls for the Protocol to be operational, implying that legislative, administrative or policy measures must be adopted to implement the articles of the Protocol;

(c) Decision [XIII/23](#) on capacity-building, technical and scientific cooperation, technology transfer and the clearing-house mechanism, by which the Short-term Action Plan (2017-2020) to Enhance and Support Capacity-building for the Implementation of the Convention and its Protocols was adopted. The activities for achieving Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 and contributing to Target 16 are listed in paragraph 68 of the Short-term Action Plan.

35. In addition, this capacity development programme was based on the obligations contained in the Nagoya Protocol itself, specifically its articles related to traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, as well as instances in which indigenous peoples and local communities have established rights to grant access to genetic resources.

36. The programme was implemented pursuant to the above decisions, and with principal financial support from the following:

(a) The [Government of Japan](#) through the Japan Biodiversity Fund;

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<sup>8</sup> See decision [XIII/18](#) of the Conference of the Parties.

(b) The Government of Mexico through the [Secretariat of Environment and Natural Resources \(SEMARNAT\)](#);

(c) The [Government of New Zealand](#);

(d) The [Government of Australia](#);

(e) The [United Nations Environment Programme](#) through the European Commission's [Capacity-Building Programme for Multilateral Environmental Agreements in Africa, the Caribbean, and the Pacific](#);

(f) The [United Nations Development Programme](#)'s Access and Benefit-Sharing (UNDP-ABS) Global Project;

(g) The programme on equitable and sustainable promotion of the economic potential of biodiversity to implement the Nagoya Protocol in Central America, an access and benefit-sharing programme implemented by the [Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit](#) (GIZ) GmbH, in cooperation with the [Central American Commission for Environment and Development](#) (CCAD);

(h) UNDP National ABS Team for Morocco.

37. Each regional workshop lasted five days and used a “train-the-trainer” methodology, including an online course which provided background information on the Convention and the Nagoya Protocol, with a focus on Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 and 16, in order to maximize the face-to-face component of the training. The online courses were offered before the face-to-face workshops.

38. For each regional workshop, the Executive Secretary invited, through notifications, nominations from indigenous peoples, local communities, and Parties, in order to select a balanced group to participate in the online course and the face-to-face workshop.

39. The four workshops held under the programme were the following:

(a) *Latin America and the Caribbean*: Tepoztlan, Mexico, 2-6 April 2018;

(b) *Pacific*: Whangarei, New Zealand, 21-25 May 2018;

(c) *Asia*: Kandy, Sri Lanka, 27-31 July 2018;

(d) *Africa*: Marrakech, Morocco, 8-12 October 2018.

40. The participants were representatives from indigenous peoples and local community organizations and Parties from the African, Asian, Latin American and Caribbean, and Pacific regions.

41. The workshops were organized in partnership with the following organizations: International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), United Nations Development Programme – Equator Initiative, Sotz'il Association, Red Indígena de Turismo de México A.C, He Puna Marama Trust, Nirmanee Development Foundation, Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity (IWN) and Indigenous Information Network (IIN). Natural Justice and ABS Initiative also contributed to the successful facilitation of the workshops.

42. The workshops covered the following topics:

(a) Overview of the Convention on Biological Diversity, including its Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets; Articles 8(j) (traditional knowledge) and 10(c) (customary sustainable use of biodiversity) and related provisions; Nagoya Protocol: background, history and relevant articles related to indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) Traditional knowledge and access and benefit-sharing, including an overview of the Convention on Biological Diversity and of the Nagoya Protocol; mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives for the implementation of the Nagoya Protocol; mechanisms, legislation or other appropriate initiatives for the protection, preservation or maintenance of traditional knowledge relevant to the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity; local mechanisms, including customary laws,

community protocols and procedures, or other appropriate initiatives; development of potential elements for a plan of action on traditional knowledge;

(c) Dialogue on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework;

(d) Preparation for the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the ninth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and the third meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

43. The workshops were facilitated by the members of the Secretariat responsible for the programme of work on Article 8(j), jointly with representatives from partner organizations.

44. A total of 185 representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities and Parties from Asia (37), Africa (43), and Latin America and the Caribbean (52), and the Pacific (53) participated in the workshops. The lists of participants are provided in the workshop reports.<sup>9</sup>

45. Outcomes of the programme include but are not limited to the following:

(a) Increase the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols at national and regional levels, such as increase the numbers of national targets of national biodiversity strategies and action plans related to traditional knowledge, and increase the numbers of national reports including traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples and local communities;

(b) Development of draft national action plans for traditional knowledge, with the goal to achieve Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 by 2020;

(c) Improved understanding of the “associated traditional knowledge” elements of the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (Articles 5, 6, 7, 12, 18 and 19) and how to effectively achieve them in the national context;

(d) Overall, the programme contributed to achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 18 and 16; including the identification of potential elements for the implementation of Article 12, concerning community protocols, minimum requirements for mutually agreed terms to secure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, and model contractual clauses for benefit-sharing arising from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources;

(e) Increased engagement and effective participation at local, national and regional levels and in meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity of both Party representatives and representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities;

(f) Increase the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the development of the sixth national reports and increase in the number of national reports mentioning indigenous peoples and local communities, traditional knowledge and the contribution of their collective actions.

#### **B. Efforts leading up to the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties**

46. The Secretariat organized a webinar in preparation for the Nature and Culture Summit and the fourteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, which were held in 2018. This preparatory webinar contributed to the successful organization of the Nature and Culture Summit, which was held from 22 to 24 November 2018, with 290 participants from all world regions (see [CBD/COP/14/INF/46](#)) and to the successful participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the Conference of the Parties.

47. The main outcomes of the Nature and Culture Summit were the adoption of the Sharm El-Sheikh Declaration on Nature and Culture. The Declaration provides concrete recommendations on how to

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<sup>9</sup> See <https://www.cbd.int/tk/cb/training.shtml>

incorporate lessons learned from the links between biological and cultural diversity in order to improve conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, enhance sustainable development and contribute to action on climate change. It also addresses the importance of respecting, preserving, maintaining, promoting and using traditional knowledge, innovations and practices in the management of local ecosystems, and respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities while promoting cultural and biological diversity. The Declaration also supports the recognition of self-determined conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities (indigenous-led conservation), as a contribution to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets, the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the emerging post-2020 target-setting agenda as part of a “Whole Earth” approach.<sup>10</sup> IIFB and the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network (IWBN) in preparation for and during meetings held under the Convention that are relevant for indigenous peoples and local communities on regular basis.

48. Also during this biennium, the Secretariat supported national and local workshops remotely with publications and online presentations on a regular basis.

### **C. Additional activities**

49. The Secretariat also provides regular briefings on issues concerning Articles 8(j) and 10(c), the Nagoya Protocol, the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and traditional knowledge to the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, the Indigenous Women’s Biodiversity Network, the CBD Women’s caucus, and governments, as well as civil society, universities, the private sector, and non-governmental organizations, on request.

50. In addition, to optimize the use of limited resources and to ensure the effective implementation of the decisions of the Conference of the Parties, the Secretariat pursues opportunities for capacity-building beyond specific capacity-building workshops. It does so, in particular, on the margins of many official meetings held under the Convention and other meetings, including the seventeenth and eighteenth sessions of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

51. In summary, the Secretariat continues to build the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities and Parties through the implementation of capacity development programmes and through the integration of indigenous peoples and local communities into other capacity-building efforts of the Secretariat.

## **V. CONCLUSION**

52. Based on the information presented above, significant progress towards Aichi Biodiversity Target 18 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 has been made during the current biennium. However, it is unlikely that all aspects of the target will be met.

53. It should be noted that there are significant improvements in national reporting as regards indigenous peoples and local communities. However, reporting on progress through submissions to the Secretariat has been limited.<sup>11</sup> Only six views were submitted by Parties and other relevant organizations, although 106 national reports were received by 30 June 2019.

54. On a positive note, in comparison with the fifth national reports, the recent sixth national reports show a significant increase in information about the implementation of Aichi Target 18 and the contribution of traditional knowledge and collective actions to the achievement of other targets, which provides the basis to conclude that significant progress has been made towards this target, but it may be insufficient to achieve it by 2020. Only 27 per cent of the fifth national reports mentioned indigenous peoples and local communities, whereas 90 per cent of the sixth national reports submitted by 30 June 2019 included information about the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the goals of the Convention.

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<sup>10</sup> See CBD/WG8J/11/INF/7 and CBD/COP/14/12/Add.1.

<sup>11</sup> See notification 2019-004, available at <https://www.cbd.int/doc/notifications/2019/ntf-2019-004-8j-en.pdf>

55. There is also ample evidence that capacity-building programmes with a focus on traditional knowledge, bringing together Parties with indigenous peoples and local communities, have contributed to raising awareness about the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities and assisted in the implementation of Aichi Target 18 at the national and local levels.

56. Parties should note that this is an interim progress report on the implementation of Article 8(j) and related provisions. It will be updated to include an additional analysis of the sixth national reports received after 30 June 2019 and reissued for the third meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation, in May 2020. Thus, the present document does not contain a draft recommendation.

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