

Special virtual session for SBSTTA-24 and SBI-03 on biodiversity, One Health and COVID-19

15 - 16 December 2020, Online

13/12/2020

Statement SABSTA 24 SBI3, International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity

(IIFB) 15th -16th December 2020

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB) had the second dialogue on the Post-2020 GBF which took place 1-3 December 2020. In preparation for the second dialogue, IIFB organized more than 20 regional webinars to discuss on the zero draft of the GBF.

Based on the outcomes of the second dialogue, IIFB would like to make the following recommendations:

- As Indigenous Peoples, we protect our biodiversity because we know the connection between biodiversity and health. The destruction of our biodiversity- forests, our animals, rivers, plants that include traditional medicine-impacts on our daily life, food, spirit and all our wellbeing. These destructions also affected healthy life of wildlife species.
- Unfortunately, many people in the world do not understand these connections between our daily lifestyle with nature. If Countries would ensure the protection of our biodiversity, the humanity could be better prepared to manage many pandemics, including COVID 19.
- IPLCs have been impacted by the COVID 19. In most communities there are no adequate health centers, or nearby hospitals and where they have medical personnel and medicine is never available. Most of the communities have been depending on their traditional medicine, food, which has helped many to manage the pandemic saving life while at the same time and protecting our lands and territories.
- The interlinkages between biodiversity, health and pandemic risk need to be reflected in the GBF with the recognition of traditional medicine of IPLCs and their customary sustainable use and management of biodiversity, wildlife animals and plants
- Current Target 19 related to Information and Traditional Knowledge need to be revised as it is below the standards of Aichi Target 18. I should have a strong recognition and support of traditional knowledge, innovation and practices and its role for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity according the all progress have been made under the CBD/
- Currently, targets 4, 8 and 9 do not recognize customary sustainable use which includes housing, traditional medicine, and food sovereignty for IPLCs' members, including women and youth.

Indigenous Peoples' territories, lands and water often overlap with high-value conservation lands, including wildlife, and are often the local partners for sustainable wildlife management.

- There is a need to have in the GBF a human rights-based approach. Our life and all that is around us depends on healthy biodiversity and ecosystem services while at the same time the respect and fulfillment of human rights. A healthy Environment help protect biodiversity and ensure its sustainable use that gives support to a more holistic approach to the Post 2020 global biodiversity framework as it integrates biodiversity, sustainable development and human rights
- The GBF should include a target on the recognition of the lands, territories, and waters of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in accordance with our customary laws, governance systems and management practices.
- The GBF should also include the valued interrelationship between culture and biology diversity.
- We need to have in the GBF strong obligation for Parties to protect and restore nature, and recognition of our rights as Indigenous Peoples.

In conclusion, we recommend that any recovery plan after the pandemic must be inclusive and should respect our mother nature, our knowledge, innovations and practices and our rights as Indigenous Peoples. A human right approach is the only way to ensure the inclusion of urgent action on Biodiversity protection which will clearly contribute to Planetary and Human Health and a strong recognition to our traditional knowledge in the post-2020 global biodiversity framework.

Thank you