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Convention on Biological Diversity

Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity
Seventeenth meeting
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Agenda item 10 (b) (i)
Implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities: guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities (Task 1.1); and guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments (Task 1.2)
Working Group I

Proposed elements for the guidelines related to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

Draft decision submitted by the Chair of Working Group I

The Conference of the Parties,

Recalling its decision 16/4 of 30 October 2024, by which it adopted the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity[1] related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030, and in particular Tasks 1.1 and 1.2, directed to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, to develop guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework,[2] including on indigenous and traditional territories, and guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments to support the implementation of Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework, respectively, and recognizing the alignment of the programme of work with the Framework,

[*Recalling also* decision 16/6 of 1 November 2024,]

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[2] Decision 15/4, annex.

Acknowledging the need to address the underrepresentation of indigenous peoples and local communities from various regions and specific challenges faced by those from developing countries in the work of the Convention,

Taking note of the output of the expert workshop to support the implementation of Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, including draft guidelines,[3]

1. [*Adopts*] the voluntary guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their indigenous and traditional territories in spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, area-based conservation and environmental impact assessments contained in the annex to the present decision;

2. *Encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments, to integrate and apply the guidelines or their elements, as appropriate and in accordance with national legal frameworks and relevant international law, in spatial planning processes, national biodiversity strategies and action plans and environmental impact assessment procedures, respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them;

3. *Also encourages* Parties, and invites other Governments and relevant actors in a position to do so, to support the dissemination of the guidelines, including through their translation into the languages of indigenous peoples and local communities, in accordance with national priorities and circumstances;

4. *Further encourages* Parties to identify and promote best practices to secure land tenure and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with Task 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international obligations;

5. *Invites* Parties and other Governments, in partnership with indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth and relevant stakeholders, to identify and share their technical cooperation and capacity-building and development needs for implementing the voluntary guidelines through the clearing-house mechanism of the Convention, and invites Parties, other Governments, regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres and relevant organizations to offer support to address the capacity needs thus identified;

6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary, subject to the availability of resources, to invite Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities, and relevant stakeholders to share their views and experiences on the recognition of indigenous and traditional territories, where applicable, in accordance with national circumstances and legislation, including national approaches to the governance, designation, classification and reporting of such territories, and compile the information received to provide a consolidated informative report to the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities and the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice, with a view to potential consideration by those bodies in their further work in the context of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and its monitoring framework;

7. *Requests* the Global Coordination Entity, subject to the availability of resources, and invites the regional and subregional technical and scientific cooperation support centres, to facilitate capacity-building, technical cooperation and the exchange of information to assist interested Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant stakeholders in implementing the voluntary guidelines;

8. *Encourages* Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant stakeholders, as appropriate, to monitor and evaluate the use and effectiveness of the guidelines and

[3] CBD/A8J/WS/2025/2/3.

report thereon in national reports, including through the clearing-house mechanism, and by means of other appropriate mechanisms, such as community-based monitoring and information systems, which should be recognized as relevant data sources, in accordance with national circumstances;

9. *Encourages* Parties to strengthen the effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities and, where applicable, people of African descent, comprising collectives embodying traditional lifestyles, in the design, implementation and monitoring of biodiversity policies and programmes, as well as in biodiversity assessments and reporting, ensuring their full and effective participation and incorporating community-based monitoring indicators and traditional knowledge systems as complementary to other data sources, in accordance with national legislation, priorities and circumstances.

Annex

Voluntary guidelines to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and local communities and their indigenous and traditional territories in spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, area-based conservation and environmental impact assessments

I. Rationale

1. By its decision 16/5 of 1 November 2024, the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity[4] established the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. The Subsidiary Body is mandated to provide advice to the Conference of the Parties, other subsidiary bodies and, upon request, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety[5] and the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization,[6] on matters concerning indigenous peoples and local communities.

2. By its decision 16/4, the Conference of the Parties adopted the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030. The objective of the programme of work is to promote the implementation of Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities, as well as of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.[7] In the programme of work, the Conference of the Parties affirmed the importance of promoting the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and levels of implementation, in recognition of the close connection that indigenous peoples and local communities have with biological diversity and the Convention and its Protocols.

3. Element 1 of the programme of work, on conservation and ecosystem restoration, includes two tasks for the Subsidiary Body:

> Task 1.1. Develop guidelines,[8] with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the implementation of Targets 2 and 3 of the Framework, including on indigenous and traditional territories, to support the protection and restoration practices led by indigenous peoples and local communities.

[4] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2226, No. 30619.
[6] Ibid., vol. 3008, No. 30619.
[7] Decision 15/4, annex.
[8] For the purpose of the present guidelines, "guidelines" refers to voluntary guidelines.

Task 1.2. Identify and promote best practices to secure land tenure and governance by indigenous peoples and local communities and develop guidelines for the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments, in accordance with national legislation and international obligations.

4. The present guidelines have been developed by the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities pursuant to Tasks 1.1 and 1.2 of the programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention related to indigenous peoples and local communities. The guidelines are aimed at Parties, indigenous peoples and local communities and other relevant actors, including, relevant conservation and ecosystem restoration organizations, academia and research institutions, the private sector and other entities that will implement all elements of the guidelines.

5. While applying these guidelines, Parties should, as appropriate, adopt a comprehensive protection and a differentiated approach for indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact, in accordance with national circumstances, with a view to strengthening the legal and policy framework for spatial planning, ecosystem restoration and conservation, and to avoiding activities that may put them at risk.

II. Objectives

6. The objectives of the guidelines are to:

(a) Provide guidance on the inclusion and consideration of traditional lands, territories and waters, and resource use systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments to support the implementation of Targets 1 and 14 of the Framework;

(b) Provide legal and policy guidance to support the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in decision-making processes and the implementation of ecosystem restoration activities, recognizing their contribution to the implementation of Target 2 of the Framework through their traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and through indigenous and traditional governance systems;

(c) Provide legal and policy guidance for the identification, recognition, protection and promotion of, and respect and support for, the indigenous and traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities to support the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework.

III. Guiding principles

7. The present voluntary guidelines should be applied in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international law and instruments and in a manner that is consistent with section C of the Framework and the general principles outlined in the programme of work.

[A. Spiritual and cultural relationships

8. Conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, as well as spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, should be designed in a manner that recognizes and respects the spiritual and biocultural relationships that indigenous peoples and local communities have with biodiversity in their lands, territories and waters.

B. Recognition of and respect for customary land and water tenure and governance systems

9. The customary tenure over land, water and territories, governance systems, customary law and procedures of indigenous peoples and local communities should be recognized and respected.

C. Human rights-based approach

10. Conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should follow a human rights-based approach respecting, protecting and promoting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including through their full and effective participation in decision-making, in line with section C of the Framework and in accordance with relevant national legislation and circumstances, international instruments, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples,[9] and human rights law.

D. Free, prior and informed consent

11. The free, prior and informed consent[10] of indigenous peoples and local communities should be respected in the design and implementation of spatial planning and environmental impact assessment activities, as appropriate, including those related to the designation and management of conservation and restoration areas that may have an impact on their lands, territories, waters, resources and cultural heritage, in accordance with national circumstances.

E. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices

12. The traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities provide valuable cultural guidance and information to enhance and support the implementation of conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change and environmental impact assessments, in addition to other knowledge systems. Traditional knowledge systems should therefore be recognized, respected, valued and protected, including through the respect for the free, prior and informed consent of traditional knowledge holders.

F. Gender equality and intergenerational equity

13. The critical roles of women and girls, children and youth, knowledge holders and elders from indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be recognized. Women and girls among indigenous peoples and local communities play an important role in the preservation and transmission of traditional knowledge. Gender-responsive approaches should address barriers to the participation, leadership and benefit-sharing of women and girls, and children and youth from indigenous peoples and local communities and should safeguard the transmission of gender-specific knowledge.

14. The implementation of the present guidelines should be guided by the principles of intergenerational equity to ensure that the needs of the present generation are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs and that younger generations can participate meaningfully in decision-making at all levels.

G. Recognition of diverse value systems

15. Conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments should be undertaken in a manner that respects the diverse value systems of indigenous peoples and local communities. Such concepts as Mother Earth, spirituality, nature's gifts and the rights of nature should be acknowledged and respected in accordance with section C of the Framework and national circumstances. The cultural, spiritual and holistic relationships of indigenous peoples and local communities with their lands, territories and waters and their distinct knowledge systems and governance institutions should also be acknowledged and respected.]

[9] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

[10] All references to "free, prior and informed consent" refer to the tripartite terminology of "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" or "approval and involvement".

IV. Inclusion and consideration of traditional lands and of resource use in spatial planning processes

16. National laws and policy frameworks should, as appropriate, ensure the recognition of traditional lands and resource use in participatory, integrated and biodiversity-inclusive spatial planning and effective management processes that address land- and sea-use change, including those led by or jointly developed with indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to their lands, territories, waters and resources, including marine and coastal areas.

17. Spatial planning and effective management measures led by indigenous peoples and local communities that address land- and sea-use change should be considered and reflected, as appropriate, in the development, revision or updating of national biodiversity strategies and action plans, as well as in land-use planning and marine spatial planning.

18. Spatial planning and land-use-related frameworks and processes should, as appropriate, recognize land- and sea-use mapping led by indigenous peoples and local communities, developed in accordance with their cultural, governance and spiritual dimensions and using traditional toponyms.

19. Decision-making in spatial planning and effective management processes addressing land- and sea-use change should promote cooperation and collaboration with indigenous peoples and local communities, through the recognition, as appropriate, of indigenous and traditional governance systems.

V. Contributions to the effective restoration of degraded ecosystems[11]

20. The rights and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities in ecosystem restoration activities, which are grounded in their holistic relationships with their lands, territories and waters should be respected and promoted by, inter alia, supporting biocultural approaches, customary sustainable use of biodiversity, traditional knowledge systems and other forms of stewardship, such as those related to the governance and land tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities.

21. Restoration efforts should, where applicable, take into account traditional knowledge and the principles of free, prior and informed consent. In accordance with indigenous and traditional governance systems, the roles of elders, knowledge holders, women and girls, and children and youth from indigenous peoples and local communities should be recognized and strengthened in all aspects of restoration.

22. Legislative, administrative and policy measures related to ecosystem restoration should be developed in line with Target 2 of the Framework and in a manner that recognizes and safeguards the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. Measures should be developed with the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities at all stages and in all processes related to planning, development, implementation and monitoring. Assessments of degraded ecosystems should draw upon diverse knowledge systems, including scientific assessments and the traditional knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities.

23. Restoration efforts should be co-designed and co-developed with indigenous peoples and local communities and relevant government authorities and reflected in national restoration plans and national reporting, ensuring that the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities are visible, supported and tracked through the use of appropriate indicators.

[11] The territories, lands and waters of indigenous peoples and local communities should not be considered as inherently in need of restoration.

24. Restoration efforts in indigenous and traditional territories should, where possible, contribute to food and water security, climate and community resilience, income generation and the cultural and lifestyle strengthening of indigenous peoples and local communities.

VI. Recognition of and respect for indigenous and traditional territories in the implementation of Target 3 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

25. Legal, administrative and policy measures for the national identification and recognition of, and respect for, indigenous and traditional territories should be developed, adopted and implemented. Those measures should recognize, as appropriate, the customary tenure systems, governance institutions, cultural significance, sacred sites, conservation roles, traditional economies and rights over lands, waters, territories and resources of indigenous peoples and local communities.

26. Indigenous and traditional territories, in many cases, contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, as relevant to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework. Indigenous and traditional territories can also be complementary to and may be recognized separately from protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, [according to national circumstances and legislation,] [and reported][and considered for reporting] as relevant to the implementation of Target 3 of the Framework, according to the principle of free, prior and informed consent and to national circumstances, legislation and frameworks. Where protected areas or other effective area-based conservation measures overlap indigenous and traditional territories, management measures that ensure biodiversity outcomes should apply, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and the principle of free, prior and informed consent, respecting the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including over their traditional territories, to practice their customary sustainable use, management and governance, as well as their cultural practices, according to national circumstances and legislation.

VII. Environmental impact assessments

27. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines for the Conduct of Cultural, Environmental and Social Impact Assessments Regarding Developments Proposed to Take Place on, or Which Are Likely to Impact on, Sacred Sites and on Lands and Waters Traditionally Occupied or Used by Indigenous and Local Communities[12] provide a culturally appropriate framework for conducting environmental, cultural and social impact assessments related to developments proposed on or near sacred sites, or on lands, territories and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities.[13]

28. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines remain valid and applicable to environmental impact assessments, in particular in the context of the implementation of the Framework and Task 1.2 of the programme of work.

29. The Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines include cultural and social dimensions in environmental impact assessments, including evaluating impacts on spiritual values, cultural practices, customary governance systems, traditional livelihoods and intergenerational knowledge transmission.

30. Parties, other Governments, the private sector and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities may develop and apply other recognized, applicable and effective principles, standards, agreements and protocols for environmental, cultural and social impact assessments.

[12] Decision VII/16 F, annex.

[13] The Conference of the Parties decided to use "indigenous peoples and local communities" in decision XII/12 and "prior and informed consent", "free, prior and informed consent" and "approval and involvement" depending on national circumstances, in the Mo'otz Kuxtal Voluntary Guidelines in decision XIII/18.

VIII. Institutional and administrative mechanisms

A. Recognition of customary governance systems

31. The governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, including traditional and customary governance systems, should be recognized and supported as unique and legitimate frameworks for the stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances, as well as international law and instruments. This recognition should extend to customary laws, community protocols, norms, values and rules related to land, water and marine management, as well as the protection of sacred sites.

32. Enabling conditions should be created to ensure support for indigenous peoples and local communities in strengthening and exercising their governance systems for stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity, for example, through the recognition of and support for community mapping, the participatory demarcation of their territories and the development of community-led monitoring systems, in accordance with national legislation and circumstances.

33. Where applicable, the autonomy of indigenous peoples and local communities in the management and governance of their lands, territories and waters, including marine and coastal areas, should be respected through the recognition of their justice and governance systems and the provision of financial and technical support.

34. Strengthening the customary governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with national legislation and circumstances, where applicable, for stewardship, conservation and restoration of biodiversity supports more effective spatial planning and sustainable management.

B. Free, prior and informed consent

35. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures or protocols should be developed and implemented in consultation with indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation and circumstances and international instruments, with a view to obtaining their free, prior and informed consent before the establishment, expansion or change of any protected area or any other effective area-based conservation measures affecting their lands, territories and waters, including marine and coastal areas, or their cultural values and heritage. Free, prior and informed consent should be obtained through consultations conducted in good faith as part of environmental impact assessments and in accordance with national legislation and the Akwé: Kon Voluntary Guidelines.

36. Free, prior and informed consent should be understood as an ongoing process, allowing communities to determine what information should be shared or withheld, in particular with regard to sacred sites and culturally sensitive information.

37. Traditional knowledge, innovations and practices should only be accessed and used with the free, prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with customary protocols, national legislation and international instruments.

C. Administrative arrangements

38. Indigenous and traditional mechanisms, including relevant governance frameworks, in accordance with indigenous and traditional governance systems should be established or, as needed, strengthened or maintained.

39. Co-management bodies should be established or strengthened under national legislation, as appropriate, to guide the planning, implementation and monitoring of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Co-management bodies should ensure an equitable representation of government and indigenous peoples and local communities.

40. Areas that are governed and managed by indigenous peoples and local communities in accordance with their customary laws and practices, governance systems and institutional frameworks should be recognized in the context of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments, in line with national legislation and circumstances, and international instruments.

41. The customary law, procedures and governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities may be recognized and respected in the design, management and monitoring of protected areas, as appropriate. Such recognition may also be reflected in other effective area-based conservation measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

42. Consultative and collaborative mechanisms should be established or, as needed, strengthened between governments and representative bodies and organizations of indigenous peoples and local communities, as determined by them, in their respective countries, in relation to community mapping initiatives and monitoring systems.

43. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures, including safeguards, grievance mechanisms and monitoring systems, should be developed and implemented to prevent marginalization, displacement or cultural harm in connection with conservation, restoration and sustainable use efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

D. Mechanisms for conflict resolution

44. Mechanisms, legislation, administrative, corporate and policy measures or protocols for conflict prevention, resolution and grievance redress should be established or, as needed, strengthened. Those systems should recognize and respect customary dispute resolution practices and safeguard the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities in relation to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

IX. Full and effective participation

45. Indigenous peoples and local communities should be accorded the right to full, equitable, inclusive, effective and gender-responsive participation in all decision-making processes that may affect their rights, lands, territories, waters and resources.

46. The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities should be ensured throughout the development, planning, implementation and monitoring of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation and ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments that affect them.

X. Enabling conditions

A. Capacity-building

47. The capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities, relevant government institutions and the private sector to implement the present guidelines should be strengthened. Capacity-building efforts should be culturally sensitive and include training for public authorities, stakeholders and the private sector to apply relevant legislation and policies respectfully and effectively.

48. Opportunities for training, technical cooperation and legal support, including, where possible, in indigenous languages, should be created and promoted through the development of appropriate materials and tools to allow for the sharing of experiences related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments among indigenous peoples and local communities.

B. Awareness-raising

49. Awareness should be raised among government institutions, civil society, the private sector and the general public of the roles, contributions, rights and knowledge systems of indigenous peoples and local communities in conservation and ecosystem restoration.

C. Sustainable, inclusive and accessible financial mechanisms

50. Adequate sustainable and accessible financial support should be provided or strengthened for the design, implementation and monitoring of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration measures, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, in line with decisions 16/4 and 16/34.

51. Direct funding programmes should be developed, established or strengthened, as appropriate, in coordination with Parties, consistent with national legislation and circumstances, to support restoration and conservation efforts, spatial planning processes and environmental impact assessments led by indigenous peoples and local communities within their lands, territories and waters with their full and effective participation, in line with decisions 16/4 and 16/34.

D. Monitoring and reporting

52. The development of monitoring and reporting mechanisms, including the use of biocultural community protocols, should be supported.

53. Quantitative and qualitative indicators, including biocultural and traditional knowledge indicators, and community-based monitoring and information systems should be promoted, strengthened and, where appropriate, operationalized, taking into account national circumstances, without creating additional reporting burdens, to measure the effectiveness of conservation and ecosystem restoration efforts led by or involving indigenous peoples and local communities, including for headline indicator 22.1 of the monitoring framework for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework on land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous peoples and local communities.[14]

54. The need to ensure and enhance the transparency and inclusivity of community-based monitoring and information systems and to fully engage indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, in the management of those systems, including by promoting and implementing community-based monitoring and information systems in developing countries, should be acknowledged, and the importance of enhanced international cooperation to address the technical, financial, technological and capacity constraints that undermine the capacity of developing countries to support community-based monitoring and information systems should be highlighted.

55. National information systems on indigenous and traditional territories, at all levels, should be created and maintained, in accordance with national circumstances, legislation and priorities, to monitor progress in the recognition and governance of those territories. The systems must ensure data sovereignty for those groups, with their free, prior and informed consent.

56. Information on the implementation of commitments related to indigenous and traditional territories, and the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities to conservation and ecosystem restoration, should be integrated into national biodiversity strategies and action plans, national restoration plans and national reports produced under the Convention.

E. Access to information

57. Indigenous peoples and local communities should have timely and culturally appropriate access to information related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures,

[14] See decision 16/31.

ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments. Access includes the translation of relevant materials into the languages of indigenous peoples and local communities, as appropriate, as well as the use of culturally appropriate formats to facilitate the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them.

F. Technical cooperation and legal support

58. Technical, scientific and legal support should be provided to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples and local communities to undertake community mapping and monitoring related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.

59. Legal support should be provided, as appropriate, in line with national circumstances, to enhance awareness of the collective land rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including women and youth among them, and their right to a traditional lifestyle and to assist indigenous peoples and local communities with processes related to protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, ecosystem restoration, spatial planning and environmental impact assessments.