



**High-Level Segment**  
**UN Biodiversity Conference, Kunming, People's Republic of China**  
**“Ecological Civilization-Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”**

**12-13 October 2021**

**High Level meeting COP 15**

**Statement on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), delivered by Lucy Mullenkei, co-chair of the IIFB**

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity is happy with the feedback so far from the first part of the COP15 Conference discussion. We want to thank the many delegates who spoke and recognized our vital role and need to ensure that we continue to get support in our work on the conservation of Biological Diversity. We are also encouraged by the theme “**Ecological Civilization- Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth**” this theme reaffirms that Indigenous Peoples’ cultures, life styles, knowledge, management system, maintain the most remaining biodiversity in the world, we practice our ecological civilization where we take care of biodiversity not only for human beings, but also animals and plants, reaffirming life on earth.

Mr President, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity welcomes the acknowledgement of the contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities to conservation and sustainable use in paragraph 9 of the Kunming declaration. This is in line with overwhelming evidence that shows that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are the de facto custodians of a significant portion for the planet and that biodiversity is decreasing at a much slower rate on Indigenous peoples lands and territories than anywhere else on the planet. This is also because we have been undertaking ecosystem restoration for centuries, learning from generation to generation. We continue to be committed and ready to join the world in ensuring the Ecosystem restoration efforts globally succeed.

The commitments of the Kunming Declaration (Commitment 5). to recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities’ by ensuring full and effective participation in the context of area-based conservation is critical and very timely However, we call on the Parties to the Convention to recognize the rights and contributions of Indigenous Peoples and local communities beyond protected areas, and Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures(OECMS,) and that any recognition and/or designation of our lands and territories must be subject to the self-identification, self-determination, self-governance and free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous Peoples and local communities.



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In addition, we welcome the commitment to ensure the fair and equitable benefit-sharing from the utilization of traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources (Commitment 8). This commitment should include the digital sequence information on genetic resources to ensure Nagoya Protocol validity in the near future particularly on matters related to Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources.

The emerging global biodiversity framework must bring into balance the 3 objectives of the Convention and more fully address the 2nd and 3rd objectives of sustainable use and benefit sharing or risk failing to meet the 2030 Targets and ultimately the 2050 vision of living in harmony with Nature.

IIFB hopes that these commitments in Kunming Declaration are carried into the negotiations and adopted in the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework. We are committed and ready to work with you all and at all levels to ensure that the Post-2020 global biodiversity framework leads to the truly transformative change urgently needed to save our Mother Earth for the present and future generations.

Thank you,