



**Twenty-sixth meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological  
Advice (SBSTTA-26)**  
*13–18 May, 2024*  
*Nairobi, Kenya*

**AGENDA ITEM 9: Biodiversity and Health**

**DATE: 14 MAY 2024**

Statement on behalf of the **International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB)** delivered by:  
**Ramson Karmushu**

We, the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity, are mindful of the reciprocal relationships between biodiversity and health. We remind Parties and all stakeholders that biodiversity destruction negatively impacts peoples' health. As we recently saw with COVID-19, Mother Earth develops its detoxification mechanisms to refix itself. In this reality, biodiversity and health discussions are critical to Indigenous Peoples whose lifeways are intrinsically connected to Mother Nature.

Therefore, actions taken on biodiversity and health at all levels should respect, recognize, and uphold land tenure, territories and resources, customary law, and traditional knowledge systems. This is ensured with the implementation of Indigenous Peoples' Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as enshrined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in Articles 32, and 24. Particularly, to enjoy full realization on use and access to indigenous medicines and food sovereignty.

In this regard, IIFB would like to put forward the following recommendations and additions:

In the Preamble: paragraph 5:

*Noting* the important role of **INTERCULTURAL** education and awareness-raising for mainstreaming biodiversity and health interlinkages through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach,

*Considering* the importance of cooperation with other organizations and initiatives in the area of biodiversity and health, **INCLUDING INDIGENOUS DOCTORS AND HEALERS**

3 (a) To implement the Global Action Plan **WITH THE FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN, AND YOUTH** and provide information on their implementing activities and the results thereof, including through their national reports, as appropriate;

3 (b) To designate a national focal point on biodiversity and health to enhance national coordination, knowledge exchange, implementation and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned among biodiversity, **INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL DOCTORS OR HEALERS**, and health actors, including those working in human, animal and plant health, and environmental sectors, and to work comprehensively with health and health-related agencies, **TRADITIONAL AND INDIGENOUS HEALTH SYSTEMS** and professionals at the national level;

4. *Invites* other Governments and relevant organizations, **including INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES**, women, youth and the members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health, to make use, as appropriate, of the Global Action Plan in order to mainstream biodiversity and health interlinkages into their respective constituencies and across sectors;

6. *Invites* Parties, other Governments, relevant organizations, **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN, and YOUTH**, donors and relevant financial institutions to



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support **CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE** capacity-building for the effective implementation of the Global Action Plan;

7 (b) Specific indicators on biodiversity and health interlinkages that currently exist at the national, regional or global level; **TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE NATURAL INDICATORS ON HOLISTIC NATURAL MEDICINE AND BIODIVERSITY**

7 (c) Examples of the implementation of the Global Action Plan and the mainstreaming of biodiversity and health interlinkages at **ALL, THE NATIONAL OR INTERNATIONAL** levels **INCLUDING GOOD PRACTICES OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**;

8 (b) To facilitate, in collaboration with partners, capacity-building activities to support Parties in the uptake and implementation of the Global Action Plan, including by convening regional workshops and facilitating dialogues in collaboration with, inter alia, organizations members of the Quadripartite alliance on One Health and other multilateral environmental agreements; **INCLUDING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, WOMEN, AND YOUTH**

8 (c) To continue to raise awareness at all levels, **WITH APPROPRIATE TOOLS, MEANS AND LANGUAGES** including through relevant processes of other multilateral environmental agreements and intergovernmental bodies, of the important interlinkages between biodiversity and health, including their relevance to the implementation of the Framework;

8 (d) To enhance cooperation with international organizations and other multilateral environmental agreements with regard to biodiversity and health interlinkages, including by promoting the consideration of those interlinkages with the other elements of the triple planetary crisis, namely, biodiversity loss, climate change, and pollution, **INCLUDING CONTAMINATION, WASTE, AND CHEMICAL POLLUTION**,

IIFB seeks Parties' support in our submissions.

Thank you Chair