



Policy Brief

Tenth meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity

(13 - 16 December 2017, Montreal, Canada)

Agenda items up for discussion:

• **The Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge:**

The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (WG8J) will consider the draft Rutzolijirisaxik Voluntary Guidelines for the Repatriation of Traditional Knowledge. Many entities - museums, herbaria, botanical and zoological gardens, databases, registers and gene-banks, among others - hold traditional knowledge. Repatriation of traditional knowledge, including by providing access to traditional knowledge and related and/or complementary information for indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) could facilitate the recovery of traditional knowledge relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. The guidelines suggest possible measures and actions to promote and enhance repatriation of traditional knowledge. The name 'Rutzolijirisaxik', given by the indigenous Maya peoples of the midwestern highlands in Guatemala, means "the significance of returning to the place of origin". The Working Group is expected to complete a draft of the guidelines for consideration and adoption by the Conference of the Parties in 2018 at its fourteenth meeting (COP 14).

• **Future of the Working Group on Article 8(j):** To enhance efficiencies, coherence and coordination among bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, the WG8J is discussing the future of the Working Group. Two options are under consideration – integrating the work on traditional knowledge into other bodies of the Convention and its Protocols, with the full and effective participation of IPLCs; and, establishing a subsidiary body on Article 8(j) and related provisions with a mandate to provide advice to the Convention and its Protocol bodies. Also considered will be the future work, including unfinished tasks, of the programme of work for Article 8(j) and related provisions, and on customary sustainable use, including possible post-2020 arrangements. The Working Group is expected to adopt draft recommendations for consideration and adoption by COP 14.

• **Contribution of the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** The WG8J will hold an in-depth dialogue with panelist representatives from Parties, IPLCs, the United Nations and scientists who will present their experiences and recommendations for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals with the contribution of traditional knowledge.

•**Glossary of relevant key terms and concepts:** The WG8J will consider a set of terms and concepts within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions, including traditional knowledge and indigenous peoples' and local communities' community conservation areas. The Working Group is expected to complete the glossary of key terms and concepts to be used within the context of Article 8(j) and related provisions, with a view to its adoption at COP 14.

•**The contribution of collective actions of indigenous peoples and local communities:** The WG8J will consider the role of collective action and methodological guidance for identifying, monitoring and assessing the contributions of indigenous peoples and local communities. While IPLCs manage the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity effectively, their contributions are not reflected in official reports. Thus, discussions will focus on how and by which methodology the collective actions of indigenous peoples can be identified, monitored and assessed. The Working Group is expected to adopt draft recommendations with a view to finalizing the methodological guidance at the second meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-2) and adopting it at COP 14.

•**Safeguards in Biodiversity Financing Mechanisms:** The WG8J will discuss how Parties, other governments, international organizations, business organizations and other stakeholders take the Voluntary Guidelines on Safeguards in Biodiversity Financing Mechanism into account when selecting, designing and implementing biodiversity financing mechanisms. The Voluntary Guidelines on biodiversity safeguards represent important progress in addressing the potential impacts of biodiversity financing mechanisms on biodiversity and on the rights and livelihoods of indigenous peoples and local communities effectively. The Working Group is expected to make recommendations, for further consideration by the SBI-2.

NOTE: The Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Article 8(j) is open to all Parties, governments, indigenous peoples and local communities representatives, international organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, private and educational sectors. Indigenous peoples and local communities play a full and active role, which includes enhanced participation mechanisms such as:

- Nomination of an indigenous representative as co-chair of the meeting
- Indigenous peoples and local community bureau of seven members representing the seven geo-cultural regions
- Co-chairs for sub-working groups and contact groups
- Enhanced opportunities to make interventions for all agenda items.

The participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the meetings of the CBD, particularly in the Working Group on Article 8 (j), has contributed significantly to the adoption of decisions and guidelines to Parties for the implementation of the CBD and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. WG8J's work to engage IPLCs is seen as a good practice model for the rest of the United Nations System.

Relevant Links:

Meeting documents: www.cbd.int/meetings/WG8J-10

Article 8(j) Traditional Knowledge, Innovations and Practices: www.cbd.int/traditional/

Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020: www.cbd.int/sp/

Aichi Biodiversity Targets: www.cbd.int/sp/targets/

Global Biodiversity Outlook 4: www.cbd.int/gbo4/
