

**INFORMAL SESSION FOR THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE  
SUBSIDIARY BODY ON SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND TECHNOLOGICAL  
ADVICE**

17-19 and 24-26 February 2021

**AGENDA ITEM 6 – Marine and Coastal Biodiversity**

**STATEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS FORUM ON BIODIVERSITY  
(IIFB) Presented by Ms. Chrissy Grant, JABALBINA.**

Madam Chair,

I am speaking on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB).

As Indigenous Peoples, we have managed our marine and coastal environments for thousands of years with proven sustainable practices that support biodiversity and sustainable use.

We are a part of the marine and coastal environment and are one of the first peoples to experience the impacts of changes occurring. As these changes occur, we are constantly utilizing and adjusting 1000's of years of knowledge and practices that has ensured our food security, culture integrity, and overall entire ecosystem health for all to enjoy.

Our food sovereignty and security are core to any discussion about the marine and coastal environments and this needs to be fully recognized. All work focused on spatial planning, conservation effective measures and management needs to include us through equitable practices, include our knowledge provided through the application of free, prior and informed consent.

As IPLC's we call for the consideration of the declaration of culturally significant areas. In order to identify culturally significant areas, we request support for regional meetings to develop Indigenous indicators for monitoring cultural and biological biodiversity.

We believe working directly with IPLC's to gain a greater understanding of our proven sustainable practices to inform CBD on holistic approaches is needed to inform adaptive decision-making with humans as part of the environment.

The IIFB has identified that a number of Key actions must be included in the recommendations and documents for the Coastal and Marine Biodiversity as they all have an impact on our livelihoods and way of life. The following should be included in the key actions which should be undertaken with the free, prior and informed consent of the Indigenous peoples and local communities.

- Indigenous food security and food sovereignty
- Recognizing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Include culturally significant areas in the redefining of ecologically or biologically significant areas

- Terms of Reference further developed to call for meaningful engagement of Indigenous Peoples actively involved in defining ecologically, biologically, and culturally significant areas
- Facilitate the development of indicators from Indigenous peoples for ecologically, biologically, and culturally significant areas
- Ensure that work program on island biodiversity includes islands within the Arctic
- Ensure we are fully informed and resourced to participate with the workplan on biodiversity in cold-water areas within the jurisdictional scope of the convention
- Recognising that what happens on the land eventually impacts the ocean which is our food gathering areas which connects us to the ocean and the coast

Therefore, IIFB recommends:

In Annex II, under 2 an additional clause to be included at -

**(e) information provided by IPLCs with their free, prior and informed consent is critical to the acknowledgement and understanding of IPLC's contribution to the monitoring and maintenance of EBSAs.**

In Annex III

**(a) Newly available/accessible knowledge, including scientific and traditional knowledge with the free, prior and informed consent of the IPLCs, on features associated with an EBSA;**

In Annex IV

**3. Holders of relevant knowledge, including applying the free, prior and informed consent of the IPLCs that hold their knowledge, may collaborate with the proponents in the development of proposals for modification.**

In Annex VIII

**(d) The Secretariat compiles a report, including comments received and ensuring that IPLCs have been included with free, prior and informed consent, to be made available to the Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and the Conference of the Parties for consideration with a view to inclusion of the modification in the repository. In compiling the report, the Secretariat may seek the advice of a relevant expert advisory body mandated by the Conference of the Parties.**

The IIFB has submitted our recommendations in a full statement in writing.

Thank you, Madam Chair