

**INFORMAL SESSION IN PREPARATION FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF THE SUBSIDIARY BODY ON
IMPLEMENTATION**
8–14 March 2021

Agenda Item 5. Post-2020 global biodiversity framework

Statement of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), presented by
Ms. Jennifer Corpuz, TEBTEBBA

Thank you, Chair.

The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity wishes to emphasize that recognizing, protecting, and honoring the time immemorial, reciprocal, and spiritual relationship of Indigenous Peoples and local communities with their land, waters, territories, and resources is key to halting biodiversity loss and ensuring the health of our planet. We have always known this, and we are pleased that global assessments and scientific studies are now catching up with what we have always known.

The full and effective participation of IPLCs in biodiversity planning, decision-making, implementation, and monitoring at all levels will be essential in ensuring the success of the Post-2020 GBF. Full recognition of our rights will bring about the transformative change towards the vision of living in harmony with nature that we all seek.

We are pleased that IPLC participation and rights are recognized in the updated zero draft as an enabling condition. However, we believe this language can be further strengthened, including through a specific commitment to “secure rights to lands, waters, territories, and resources of IPLCs” and the provision of direct, adequate, and accessible financial and technical support for land and resource management of IPLCs. Commitment to a human rights based approach in implementing the GBF will be essential for its success.

A recent technical report by the Rights and Resources Initiative found that 1.65 to 1.87 billion IPLCs live in important biodiversity conservation areas, with 363 million inhabiting existing protected areas. In most cases, the tenure of IPLCs in these areas is not secure and they are in constant danger of eviction. The study further finds that the financial cost for resettling as few as 1 percent of the people in a country’s important biodiversity conservation areas supersedes the cost of recognizing *all* tenure rights in that jurisdiction. Therefore, It makes economic sense to invest in formally recognizing customary tenure of IPLCs over their lands, waters, and resources.

The GBF should support an enhanced financial mechanism that delivers adequate resources and provides for direct access by IPLCs, including women and youth, for Indigenous-led conservation in accordance with self-determined priorities. We call on the GEF, as the primary funding mechanism for the CBD, to amend its procedures to be more inclusive and to adequately reflect the role of IPLCs in the achievement of the goals of the GBF. Concretely, we call for a dedicated

fund within GEF-8 to support efforts by IPLCs to meet their commitments. Such earmarked resources should not need to go through implementing agencies nor require permission from country focal points. The capacity, mandate, and authority of the Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group of the GEF should be strengthened. The process for crafting national biodiversity finance plans should ensure the full and effective participation of IPLCs.

Successful implementation of the GBF requires a robust accountability mechanism. We support a peer review process that elicits information on how the participation and rights IPLCs are being recognized and supported. The accountability mechanism should have the ability to address violations against Environmental Rights Defenders.

In conducting global assessments, the LBO should be recognized alongside the GBO and IPBES assessments, as a source of valuable data on IPLCs contributions to achieving the GBF. While we appreciate the recognition of the importance of indigenous and local knowledge in biodiversity decision-making, we believe that GBF must foster data governance to protect and safeguard the knowledge of IPLCs. There should be support provided for the development of bio-cultural community protocols to safeguard IPLCs from potential risks and exploitation of their knowledge and resources by outsiders. Finally, the process of knowledge generation should support and allow for IPLCs to be the main researchers in their territories.