

Civil society/ILC statement on Pyeongchang Roadmap for the enhanced implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 and the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets

(Document UNEP/CBD/COP/12/9/Add.1, Annex; as related to draft decision under Items 11 and 12 in Document UNEP/CBD/COP/1/Add.2/Rev.1)

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Thank you for giving us the opportunity to address this agenda item.

We are encouraged to see an explicit recognition for the need for enhanced action to implement the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, and we support most of the proposed 'Key Actions' in this document. However, we feel that the document does not *sufficiently* acknowledge the rights, role, and needs of indigenous peoples and local communities, including of women, in the various proposed actions.

Indigenous and community actions in general, and in particular ICCAs (Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas), have played, for millennia, and can continue to play a fundamental role in biodiversity conservation, provided they are recognized in an appropriate and effective manner. As highlighted in this COP's Information Document No. 21 (UNEP/CBD/COP12/INF/21, <http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-12/information/cop-12-inf-21-en.pdf>), ICCAs play a key role to each goal and target of the Strategic Plan. That is why they should be highlighted under each strategic goal in the proposed roadmap, as recommended below.

Under Goal A, there is a need to prioritise appropriate legal, socio-cultural, ethical and economic incentives for indigenous and community conservation, including ICCAs.

Under Goal B, the full recognition of territorial and tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, including of women, and their right to Free Prior and Informed Consent should be inserted as a precondition for addressing direct pressures on biodiversity, including threats from extractive industries, industrial monocultures, large-scale bioenergy production and unsustainable livestock production. Recognition of these rights is also a precondition for equitable governance and promoting sustainable use of, for example, fisheries management systems, forests, rangelands, and agricultural biodiversity.

Under Goal C, appropriate and adequate legal recognition of ICCAs and other community conservation initiatives should be included as one of the priority actions. Such recognition is also the most powerful way of enhancing and sharing the benefits of the conservation and restoration efforts highlighted under Goal D. This is not just about *engaging* with communities (as the current text states), but about recognizing their rights and fundamental roles, and about recognizing ICCAs as a holistic approach to conservation and restoration, including climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Lastly, while supporting the thrust of priority action (b) under Goal E, protected area governance should be based on the legal recognition of ancestral and customary territorial and tenure rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. Additionally, there needs to be sufficient legal, economic and other support for ICCAs as autonomous parts of protected area systems or ‘other effective area-based measures’, as appropriate.

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