

International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IIFBES)
Opening Statement to the 7th Plenary of the IPBES
29 April 2019, Paris, France

Thank you Chairperson, for this opportunity to speak on behalf of the International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IIFBES). I am Edna Kaptoyo, from the Indigenous Information Network of Kenya. IIFBES members met to analyze the highly informative documents prepared for IPBES-7. We wish to share indigenous peoples' collective assessment and recommendations for your consideration:

- We welcome the summary for policy makers of the global assessment on biodiversity and ecosystem services. It is a very timely report based on solid evidence and with concrete policy options to urgently address the situation of our planet and peoples.
- The multiple values and knowledge that indigenous peoples and local communities bring to sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity i.e. peoples contributions to nature have been assessed, with data on the extensive areas of land and seas managed by indigenous peoples and local communities overlapping and beyond protected areas. We consider very important, the SPM message that securing land tenure and the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities is a proven solution that should be supported and upscaled.
- The next work programme of the Platform usefully integrates the linkages among the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the post-2020 biodiversity framework and 2050 vision for biodiversity. We also welcome the inclusion of indigenous and local knowledge in the draft terms of reference for the five task forces in Appendix 1. We have the following proposals:
 1. In the terms of reference of future task forces, the term “experts on indigenous and local knowledge” should be complemented by “indigenous and local knowledge experts” from among indigenous peoples and local communities.
 2. The task force on indigenous and local knowledge must uphold the UN best practice of including seven self-selected representatives of indigenous peoples, one from each of the seven UN indigenous sociocultural regions.
 3. In the early scoping phase of each assessment, we urge IPBES to ensure the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples.
 4. The next programme of work should also emphasize peoples contributions to nature.

Our proposals are consistent with the external review of IPBES, which recommends adoption of a strategic stakeholder engagement strategy to strengthen its work.

IIFBES requests to be given an opportunity to provide greater details on our recommendations during the working group deliberations on the global assessment, the next work programme and the review of the platform.

During this meeting, members of IIFBES and the Centres of Distinction on Indigenous and Local Knowledge are open to meet with all interested Parties and stakeholders to pursue partnerships and collaboration.

Indigenous peoples have been constructively engaging in the IPBES process and we remain committed to continue and further develop and expand the spirit of partnership and collaboration for achieving the objectives of the platform.

Thank you.